

INTERNATIONAL

Kabul arrests three former top officials

KABUL, March 11, (Reuters): Two former Afghan ministers and a leading official have been arrested for involvement in Tuesday's failed coup against President Najibullah, government sources said yesterday.

Former defence minister Lieutenant-General Nazir Mohammad, former interior minister Mohammad Oulabzoi and ambassador in Moscow, and national press commission chief Mir Mohammad Karwal were sacked from the ruling People's Democratic Party Politburo on Thursday. It was not clear exactly when they were arrested.

Coup leader Defence Minister Shah-

nawaz Tanai and an associate, Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, were also sacked from the Politburo. All five belonged to the party's hardline Khasi (people) faction which is at loggerheads with Najibullah's comparatively moderate Parcham (flag) faction.

Authorities say Tanai and Mohmand fled to neighbouring Pakistan after Tuesday's coup failed.

Najibullah has set up a special tribunal to quickly try those involved but a government spokesman said there had not been any large-scale arrests so far.

The spokesman said 70 more bodies had been found, raising civilian deaths in the

fighting between loyal and rebel forces during the coup to 95. About 200 people were injured.

No figure has been given for military casualties.

Najibullah told a news conference on Thursday that 25 civilians were killed and 150 injured.

The arrests and increased casualty figures were revealed as Najibullah made a fresh appeal to Afghan political figures living abroad for talks to end the country's 11-year-old war.

Najibullah sent letters inviting leading Afghans living abroad to talks and saying

punishment of "extremists" after the attempted coup had removed the final obstacle to peace, Kabul radio said.

His previous peace appeals were rejected by Western-backed mujahideen rebels based in Pakistan and Iran, who vowed to fight until they set up an Islamic government of their own.

The main Afghan air base at Bagram north of Kabul was still closed, government sources said.

Rebel planes flew from Bagram on Tuesday and Wednesday to bomb the presidential palace and military installations in the capital.

China hails workers; to brainwash students

BEIJING, March 11, (Reuters): China's official media on Sunday suggested the nation should promote more workers to leadership roles and said college graduates needed more grassroots training.

The official People's Daily, while saying Beijing's policies towards intellectuals had not changed, hailed a major steel plant for promoting nearly half of its officials from the ranks.

"While emphasising knowledge and specialisation in the past we have overlooked the importance of revolutionary spirit," the newspaper said in a front-page commentary.

"In promoting cadres we have often focused on intellectuals, ignoring workers and peasants and others at the grassroots levels," it said.

Communist Party leaders are believed to be meeting in Beijing to discuss maintaining the party's links with the people and tightening ideological control.

In the early days of communist rule, China's leaders praised the practical experience of workers and peasants and called for mass campaigns to learn from them. This method is being used once again to maintain the party's grip on power, according to foreign envoys.

"This is another blast from the past," said a Western diplomat. "They (Chinese leaders) are looking at an imaginary time when they believe the party had better control because it had better contact with the masses."

Muslims free, claim Soviets

NICOSIA, March 11, (Reuters): A Soviet envoy on a visit to Saudi Arabia said in a television interview that Muslims in the Soviet Union have political, religious and economic freedom.

Vladimir Polyakov, director of the Middle East and North Africa department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, told Saudi television yesterday.

"Muslims in the Soviet Union now have all their rights and freedom to practice their religion and the right to study Islam. They also have their political, economic and social rights like all other peoples in the Soviet Union."

Extracts of the interview carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) were received in Cyprus today.

Indonesia denies coup men execution report

Convicted men still alive

JAKARTA, March 11, (AP): Six men convicted of taking part in a failed coup attempt 25 years ago were apparently not executed today as earlier believed, diplomatic sources said.

"My close sources said they saw them still alive until this afternoon," Johannes C. Princen, a lawyer and director of the Institute for the Defence of Human Rights, said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press.

Western diplomatic sources also said they could not confirm the six had been executed as they had believed.

Earlier today, Princen had quoted what he called "reliable sources who were always in touch with political prisoners" as saying the six were executed by firing squad at dawn.

"There were no executions today," armed forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Nurhadi Pur-

wosaputro told the AP.

Asked if and when the executions were scheduled, Nurhadi replied, "it is not within my authority to say. It is with the attorney general."

Attorney-General Sukarton Marmosudjono has been hospitalised with cholera since March 3 and was unable for comment, a spokesman for Sukarton's office said.

Armed forces Chief of Staff Gen. Try Sutrisno told reporters yesterday that the executions had "to wait for the right time." They were an internal matter to be settled by Indonesia, and outsiders had no right to meddle, Sutrisno said.

Those reported executed were convicted of plotting to overthrow the government of the late President Sukarno in 1965. Six army generals were killed in the uprising which was blamed on the Indonesian Communist Party. The coup was crushed within days by troops loyal to

then Maj. Gen. Suharto, now President of Indonesia.

Today was 25 years to the day since Sukarno issued a letter of authority to Suharto to restore law and order in the strife-torn country.

The British and Italian ambassadors to Jakarta reportedly met yesterday with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas in a follow-up to a cable sent last Tuesday to the Indonesian government, expressing a "strong appeal" from the European community to halt the sentences.

The cable, delivered through Italian ambassador to Indonesia Michel Martinez, based its appeal "on humanitarian grounds."

Four death row veterans were executed in mid-February. Princen's organisation, the London-based Amnesty International, the 12-nation European Community and the government of the Netherlands protested the executions last week.

Singh: popular but under pressure

NEW DELHI, March 11, (Reuters): Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh completed 100 days in office today with his own popularity intact but doubts emerging on his ability to solve separatist crises in Kashmir and Punjab.

Political analysts said Singh's handling of mounting violence in the two border states could decide both his future and that of the man he displaced, Rajiv Gandhi.

"V.P. Singh's honeymoon with the people is not over," said Ashis Nandy, an analyst with the Independent New Delhi think tank, the centre for the study of developing societies.

"But he must act decisively on Punjab and Kashmir within the next three or four months."

Singh's first economic test comes on March 19, when the annual budget is announced. He needs to raise revenue to bridge an alarming trade deficit and an external debt that stood at \$55 billion in the financial year which ended last March.

Nandy said Singh was still held in high popular regard for his

personal integrity, an image that helped him unite the opposition into the National Front alliance which ousted Rajiv's Congress Party from power in a general election last November.

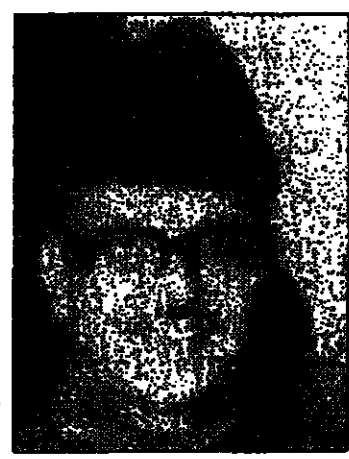
He maintained his popularity after the poll by dismantling a heavy security cordon and Western-educated circle of advisers who distanced Rajiv from ordinary Indians.

Singh's Janata Dal did reasonably well in last month's state assembly elections — his first major test in balancing rightist and leftist parties supporting his minority government.

He appears to have allayed doubts that his centrist Janata Dal could retain the support both of Hindu right-wingers in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and of two communist parties.

Singh said in a television interview yesterday that people had been apprehensive that there was no stable alternative available to the Congress. His government had proved there was such an alternative, he said.

But he cautioned against "instant solutions" in Punjab, where



Singh

the death rate in Sikh separatist militant violence has accelerated this year, or in Jammu and Kashmir, where unprecedented Muslim revolt is raging.

Militancy grew during Rajiv's five years in office.

Nandy said: "People will forget after three months that the two issues became worse during Rajiv Gandhi's rule and start asking: what have you done to solve it?"

Tamil leader flees Lanka

COLOMBO, March 11, (AP): A top Tamil official who sided with India against the Tamil Tiger guerrillas left the country with his family today, as Indian soldiers neared the deadline for their withdrawal, sources said.

A spokesman for the Indian High Commission here would neither confirm nor deny reports that Vairatharajah Perumal had fled to India on an Indian Air Force plane.

Perumal, chief minister of the northeastern provincial council, is a top leader of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front. The front is a former ally and now a bitter foe of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest and most powerful Sri Lankan Tamil guerrilla group.

Perumal's reported departure came only 10 days after he took the first step toward what he said might be the declaration of an independent Tamil nation in Sri Lanka.

But India said it would not support a Tamil independence bid, and Perumal subsequently said he would not be foolish enough to stay after the Indians left, fearing retaliatory attacks by Sinhalese.

The Indian and Sri Lankan governments have agreed that all Indian troops will leave Sri Lanka by March 31.

Tamil have long feared a bloodbath will erupt in the wake of the Indian withdrawal as rival militant groups settle old scores and vie for political power.

Last week more than 1,300 Tamils left Trincomalee by ship for the Indian port of Madras, where Tamil Nadu state officials refused to let them disembark, saying their presence might have "undesirable consequences" for the local law and order situation.

The Hindu, a Madras-based newspaper, said the fleeing Tamils were refused permission to disembark because they had no papers.

United News of India news agency yesterday quoted the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu state, Muthuvel Karunanidhi, as saying his government had learned the passengers were militants, not refugees.



Splashing each other with coloured powder to welcome spring.

Indians celebrate Holi

Bringing colour to life

NEW DELHI, March 11, (Reuters): Indians, embroiled in separatist revolt and sectarian conflict, tried to forget their troubles today in the horseplay of Holi, a rite of spring when friends and strangers splash each other with colour.

Revellers chased each other with pails of coloured water at a Times of India party to celebrate the timeless victory in the Hindu religion of good over evil.

Party-goers, drinking the traditional intoxicant brew of bhang, rapidly turned technical colour, as did the laws of the newspaper's British colonial guest house.

"Today India plays Holi. We let our hair down," said A.J. Kumar, whose hair was a brilliant chartreuse. "Everyone's

happy, at least today on Krishna's day," referring to the Hindu lord.

In New Delhi's elite suburbs, women showered neighbours more decorously with flower petals, while the city's army of beggars seized the occasion for an extra line in pleading for alms.

The "festival of colour," a mixture of Halloween and April Fool's day, marks the end of winter and the advent of spring when the winter wheat crop is ready for harvesting.

Congress Party leader Rajiv Gandhi, defeated in general elections in November, said he was not celebrating, as he could not join in while violence raged in the border states of Punjab and Kashmir.

About 450 people have been

killed this year in Sikh separatist violence in Punjab. Nearly 200 have died in an anti-Indian revolt in Jammu and Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority state.

But for most young men Holi was, as usual, a time to turn their thoughts to young women, who either hid or travelled in groups with their own armoured forces of coloured powders.

In the past, the colour smearing has sometimes turned to "love-teasing," India's term for sexual harassment.

In fact, the festival celebrates a Hindu tale of purity triumphing over impurity when the wicked witch Holika tried to throw her innocent young brother into a bonfire but was instead consumed by the flames herself.

Hawke's party holds 11-point lead

CANBERRA, Australia, March 11, (UPI): Prime Minister Robert Hawke's Labour Party holds an 11-point lead over the conservative Liberal-National Party Alliance but almost a quarter of the country's voters are undecided only two weeks before the March 24 election, a newspaper opinion poll said today.

The election for prime minister is Australia's fourth in seven years. Political commentators and analysts have termed the campaign lacklustre so far but both major parties are expected to turn up the heat in the final weeks to try and capture the millions of "undecided" votes still up for grabs.

Hawke's government, after almost seven years in office, is running for a record fourth term for Labour and odds-makers have rated his chances at better than even to remain in office. All pundits are predicting a close finish.

In the latest poll, published by the influential Sydney Sun-Herald, Labour was ahead with 33 per cent of the vote, leading the conservative-liberal party coalition opposition with 22 per cent.

Soviets first to put Japanese in space

The Soviet Union will win an undeclared space race with the United States to see which nation is first to launch a Japanese citizen into orbit, a newspaper report said Sunday.

A Soviet Soyuz spacecraft will carry an employee of the Tokyo Broadcasting System into space on Dec 2, seven months before a Japanese astronaut is scheduled to ride on a US space shuttle flight in June 1991, the Mainichi daily news reported Sunday.

TBS Television signed a contract to pay the Soviet Union to launch one of two employees — one female and one male — who are currently training with Soviet space crews.

The Japanese astronaut who is scheduled to fly on the US space shuttle is being jointly sponsored by the Japanese government and the United States.

TBS has been the only Japanese broadcaster to bid to launch the Japanese space shuttle, which is scheduled to ride the US space shuttle.

The Soyuz spacecraft with a Japanese on board will be launched from the Soviet Central Asian Space Centre and link up with the Mir space station two days later, the report said. (UPI)

Colloquium on future of education: Foreign ministers from 14 countries and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation officials arrived in Kuala Lumpur Saturday to attend a colloquium on education.

Among those who arrived were Papua New Guinea Education Minister Hadjia Bala, Ugandan Minister of State for Primary Industries, who is also responsible for education, Joyce R. Mpanza and the chairman of the Unesco executive body, Yahya Ajiyu.

They are among 15 education ministers and officials from throughout the world scheduled to take part tomorrow in the one-day colloquium on the future of education. They also will attend a closed-door meeting with Prime Minister Mahatir Mohammad. (AP)

Cambodia peace talks to resume: The five permanent members of the UN Security Council will meet in Paris Monday and Tuesday in another effort at ending the Cambodian conflict, French diplomats said Sunday.

The announcement of a new meeting between the United States, China, the Soviet Union, France and Britain follows the failure of peace talks in Jakarta last month between the four warring Cambodian factions.

The United States will be represented at the talks by under Secretary of State for Asian Affairs Richard Solomon. China has sent a Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Xu Dunxin, to the conference while the Soviet Union will be represented by Vice-Minister Igor Rogatchev.

The new Paris meeting between the permanent Security Council members will take place just one week after Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, calling all previous negotiations "just theatre," asked Thailand to host direct negotiations between China and Vietnam, the two main protagonists of the war in Cambodia.

Speaking to reporters last week from his jungle headquarters just inside Cambodia, Sihanouk said that if Thailand could improve relations between Vietnam and China then a solution could be imposed on the Cambodians.

The Cambodian factions will not be represented at the Paris talks this week, a French Foreign Ministry spokesman said. He added that the talks will focus on developing a peace formula that could then be presented to the various warring factions.

Asked about Prince Sihanouk's statement, the French spokesman said that any amelioration in relations between the two countries could only help the Cambodian peace process. (UPI)

Tanvir leaves for Moscow: Pakistan Foreign Secretary Doctor Tanvir Ahmed Khan left Islamabad Sunday for Moscow on a 4-day official visit to the Soviet Union to hold discussions on bilateral matters and international issues of mutual interest.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the visit was taking place at the invitation of Tanvir Khan's Soviet counterpart.

Before his departure, Tanvir said the visit would help develop international relations and promote an understanding on various international issues, including Afghanistan.

WANTED

Quantity Surveyor

for The Planning Department

- Preferably University or high institute graduate
- About 3 years experience in Kuwait as a Q.S. preferably handled some cost and planning related tasks.
- One year experience on computers, particularly "LOTUS 123" software or similar. (Further training will be given)
- A reasonable knowledge of English.
- Knowledge of Arabic and accounting will be an additional evaluated ability.

Apply within 10 days to:

The Personnel Manager
P.O. Box 51658, Riqa 5367, Kuwait

RAMADAN

Fresh Daily...

Veal, Produce & Qatayef

at TSC

During Ramadan a daily stock of fresh Kuwaiti Veal and produce is always waiting for you at The Sultan Center.

Pick up your delicious freshly baked Qatayef for dessert.

TSC

THE SULTAN CENTER.

Salmiyah 5719620
Salwa 5636790

PEOPLE AND PLACES

LOS ANGELES: Motion picture actor Corey Feldman, who starred in the movie *Stand By Me*, was arrested when police stopped him for a traffic violation and found heroin in his car, authorities said Saturday.

Feldman, 18, of Beverly Hills, was booked on suspicion of possessing heroin for sale after he was stopped about 7:15 pm, Friday south of downtown, Sgt. Gary Leary said.

Feldman posted \$5,466 bail and was released about 8:30 pm Saturday. Police said the bail included several unpaid traffic tickets.

Feldman was stopped for an undisclosed traffic violation by metropolitan division officers on a special patrol in the area. Officers found "numerous balloons of heroin" in the vehicle, but the exact amount of drugs seized was not disclosed, Sgt. Tom Jones said.

It was not immediately clear whether Feldman was charged with selling the drug.

Le David Powers said the charge of possession of heroin for sale is usually based on the quantity of the drug seized or the way it is packaged. Heroin is commonly sold packaged in balloons, he said. (UPI)

SEATTLE: A man whose mother thought he died in the 1970s murder case turned up alive in a Washington county jail, where, under an assumed name, he awaits sentencing for attempted murder.

King county police also learned that the man they have been holding had been wanted more than a decade ago in an Alabama forgery case.

The man, Jerry Bille Balisok, was running a motorcycle business and was facing 13 counts of forgery in Huntsville, Alabama, when he dropped out of sight in 1978.

That was the year more than 900 people died in the carnage ordered by the Rev. Jim Jones in Guyana.

Not too long after his disappearance, Balisok's mother thought she recognised her son and his wife, Deborah, in photographs of the Guyana victims.

She commissioned a tombstone for her son in the family plot in Huntsville and apparently went to her own grave in 1983 thinking her son and daughter-in-law had died in that far-off jungle tragedy.

Federal authorities abandoned their search for Balisok the same year his mother died. They dismissed the forgery charges.

King County detective Randy Mathews said Friday that, after talking with FBI authorities in Huntsville, he thinks Marjorie Balisok was sincere in her belief and was not part of a scam. (UPI)

LONDON: Lord Stewart of Fallow, who as Michael Stewart was foreign secretary under Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson, died on Saturday at the age of 83.

At the height of the Vietnam war Stewart resisted pressure to commit British troops to helping US forces in Vietnam but faced criticism from left-wingers who said the government was too sympathetic to US involvement in Indo-China.

Also known as a writer, one of his best-known works was *European Security: the Case Against Unilateral Disarmament*. (Reuters)

ISONA, Spain: Two Spanish paleontologists said on Saturday they had discovered a species of late dinosaur near Isona in northeastern Spain.

Josep Vicens Santafe and Lourdes Casanovas of the Sediment Paleontology Institute in Catalonia told reporters they had found a fossilised humerus and several vertebrae which they established belonged to a previously unknown plant-eating two-legged animal.

They said they were particularly pleased with the find because the remains date back to the late Cretaceous period 65 million years ago, when dinosaurs were already becoming extinct.

"It is very rare to discover a new species from the late Cretaceous, because by then there weren't many dinosaurs left," Santafe said. (Reuters)

Baby found inside garbage compactor

NEW YORK, March 11, (UPI): A newborn boy was pushed down a chute into a trash compactor in the basement of a housing project, where a caretaker heard his cries and saved the infant's life today by shutting off the machine, police said.

The caretaker Ferris Brown heard the wailing baby boy about 8:40 am while he was cleaning up trash in the basement of the building in the East New York Section, said Sgt. Mary Wrensen, a police spokeswoman.

Brown turned off the trash compactor and then called 911 when police and an ambulance crew arrived, they discovered the baby in a plastic bag inside the compactor, Wrensen said.

The baby was taken to St Mary's Hospital where he was listed in guarded condition in the neo-natal intensive care nursery, hospital spokesman Stephen Phelps said.

WASHINGTON: US President George Bush, who campaigned as an environmentalist, received low marks from both conservation and business groups in a magazine survey released on Saturday.

Environmental groups gave Bush a barely passing mark of D on a report card, claiming that little progress has been made in key areas, while business groups gave him a C for opposite reasons, said the survey in the March 19 edition of *US News and World Report*.

Business groups complained that the recent clean air bill, a compromise between the White House and congressional leaders, places too many restrictions and costs on companies in trying to control acid rain, smog and toxic chemicals. The bill still faces a vote in congress.

The highest grade Bush received from environmentalists was a C for his administration's efforts to clean up lakes and rivers and to enforce existing environmental laws.

But Bush received only a D from environmentalists for his international leadership on issues such as global warming, and he received a failing grade on protecting the marine environment. (Reuters)

NEW YORK: Born of the Fourth of July director Oliver Stone won top honours from his peers Saturday night as the Directors Guild of America toasted its own in a ceremony that's often a preview for best director Oscar.

Stone was voted best director of a 1989 feature film as awards were announced at New York's Waldorf Astoria hotel. A simultaneous ceremony was held in Los Angeles.

Stone's film is an account of Ron Kovic's transformation from an unthinking patriot to an unselfish protester after a Vietnam war injury left him a paraplegic.

Among the others honoured were the directors of TV's *Murphy Brown* and *L.A. Law*. (AP)

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California: Bad weather over Texas on Saturday forced officials to postpone the return of the space shuttle *Atlantis* to Florida.

A Boeing 747 jet, with the shuttle riding piggyback, was scheduled instead to take off on Sunday, said Nancy Levate, spokeswoman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Dryden flight research facility here.

Atlantis blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Feb 28 and landed on Rogers dry lake on March 4, concluding a secret military mission.

Sources told the Associated Press that the shuttle's five astronaut deployed a \$500-million spy satellite capable of taking high-resolution photographs and listening to electronic communications all over the world. (AP)



Cooling off

Two brown bears cool down with a frisky playful bath in Madrid's zoo as spring nears. Warm temperatures in Madrid invited hundreds of people to visit zoo at the weekend. (Reuters wirephoto)

Comet Austin heads for sun

AUSTIN, Texas, March 11, (UPI): Comet Austin, discovered only three months ago, is speeding toward the sun and may become the most spectacular comet since flashy comet West in 1976, scientists said.

"That's what all our predictions show," said Mary Hemenway, a senior lecturer in the University of Texas' astronomy department.

"Our predictions are that it will be brighter than Halley's," she said. "It's hard to tell what the sun will do (to the comet). Since most large comets have a large tail, it's likely it (Austin) will have a spectacular tail."

Astronomers at the McDonald Observatory in far West Texas said comet Austin, which is still about 230 million miles (370 million km) from the sun, may be visible with binoculars in "dark sky conditions" in late March.

After the comet orbits the sun and swings round for a return trip to deep space, it should be visible with the naked eye in the early morning hours of late April and early May, said Hemenway.

The comet was discovered Dec 6 by amateur New Zealand comet hunter Rodney Austin during a routine search of the deep southern constellation Tucana.

At 230 million miles from the sun, comet Austin appeared as an 11th-magnitude object, which suggests an "intrinsically bright object," said Carolyn Sumners of the Houston Museum of Natural Science's George Observatory.

Hemenway said the comet could be the brightest since comet West flashed across the skies with its brilliant tail in 1976. Many of the photographs of classic comets are of comet West, which, she said, "had a fantastic huge tail."

Stolen undies trip thief into police custody

PENSACOLA, Florida, March 11, (UPI): A man dressed as a woman bolted a store with clothing stuffed in his underwear, but was nabbed by police when the apparel slipped down his leg and tripped him, authorities said.

A unidentified store manager said the suspect was observed selecting clothing from a rack when a large bulge was noticed under the customer's skirt. Several empty hangers were seen nearby, the manager said.

The suspect was asked to remain in the store until security arrived, but allegedly pushed the store manager away, threw some money at her and ran from the building, police said.

The store manager and a witness chased the suspect. "She had taken off her high heels to run across the parking lot," security guard Bill Mack said of the suspect, who at the time was thought to be a woman.

The suspect has since been identified as a man, Darryl Williams, 23, of Pensacola, police said.

As the suspect ran, underwear fell down his leg and tripped him, said police officer Dusty Cutler. "It was big mama underwear," Cutler said. "It was an extra large pair."

Cutler said suspect pulled off the underwear and continued to run. When the suspect lifted his skirt, she could clearly see she was a he.

"I started laughing and I couldn't finish my transmission," Cutler said.

Cutler said she used her patrol car to cut off the suspect and arrest him.

Supercomputers' miracle

NEW ORLEANS, March 11, (Reuters): Imagine unleashing a swarm of insects over a farm or suddenly cutting car emissions in Los Angeles by half.

The results could yield important scientific knowledge. But the hazards of playing dice with ecosystems and the difficulties of altering economic patterns have prevented scientists from performing these and many other experiments.

Supercomputers are fast changing this. High-speed computation is being used to extend the human intellect into formerly inaccessible realms of complexity.

It is transforming research styles in a variety of fields — from biology to mathematics — and hastening the pace of product development in a dozen industries, said experts at a recent conference here of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Supercomputers are capable of dealing with numbers so fast that they can simulate natural events such as airflows over an airplane wing. They are crucial tools for scientists designing weapons, aircraft, cars and other products, and are considered vital to a nation's overall competitiveness.

The United States, however, suffers a severe shortage of supercomputer capacity and its industry is trailing Japan in the application of the expensive number crunchers, the experts said.

"When you see what's happening in Japan, (you see) there's a vital need for investment," said Gregory McRae, associate professor of chemical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

Supercomputers, which typically cost from \$20-30 million can perform billions of calculations per second.

David Onstad, a scientist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has been studying how natural pathogens (agents causing disease) of insects can be part of an overall plan to help manage crop pests.

1990s may be decade of high-tech telescopes

LA SILLA MOUNTAIN, Chile, March 11, (UPI): Astronomers have begun a new era in searching the heavens, using a high-tech telescope whose unprecedented, consistently sharp images may open the way for a glimpse at the beginning of time.

Perched atop La Silla Mountain in Atacama desert of Northern Chile, the European Southern Observatory's new technology telescope is being trumpeted by its builders as the best optical instrument of its size in the world.

The telescope, measuring 11-1/2 feet (3.5 m) in diameter, began regular operations in January and is producing "the best images ever taken on this mountain and probably the best ever," said observatory director Daniel Hofstadter.

Jorge Melnic, the observatory's science director, also proclaimed the deep space images "the best ever taken — wonderful."

Although a formidable telescope on its own right, the new technology telescope is actually just the forerunner of an even more ambitious project.

The dryly named very large telescope will be four separate 26-foot (8-m) telescopes that, acting together, will be equivalent to a 53-foot (16-m) mirror. It will allow scientists to peer billions of light years beyond the capabilities of current telescopes.

"You can expect to see the creation of the universe far earlier," said French astronomer Patrice Bouchet, a staff scientist at the observatory.

Telescopes now in use allow scientists to observe stars and other light-emitting objects about a billion light years from earth, Bouchet said. The very large telescope will push that back to about 10 billion light years — far closer to the cosmic "big bang" thought to have created the universe about 15 billion years ago.

At 10 billion light years, "you start really to be at the age of the creation" Bouchet said. One light year — the distance light travels in a year — equals about 6 trillion miles (9.7 trillion km).

The new technology telescope inaugurated several advances that will be incorporated in the very large telescope.

The most important is the relatively lightweight 11-1/2-foot (3.5-metre) "zerodur" mirror. It is a single mirror whose thickness — 9-1/2 inches (24 cm) — for the first time allows astronomers to use computer managed motors to constantly adjust its shape to make up for distortions caused by changing temperatures or other factors.

Irish parents leave for an emotional reunion

SHANNON, Ireland, March 11, (UPI): A planeload of happy Irish parents left yesterday for an emotional reunion with their children and the start of a lobbying campaign that they hope will let them remain in the United States.

The 150 mothers and fathers on the New York-bound flight were being brought to the United States on a trip funded by their sons and daughters — illegal immigrants who dare not risk returning home because of the likelihood they would be refused readmission to the United States.

Most of the parents on what was dubbed "the flight of the families" have not seen their children for four or five years.

"It's almost too exciting for words. I haven't seen my two sons since they left Ireland for New York in 1985 and I was beginning to think I might never see them again," Kathleen Murray, a Limerick widow, said before boarding the AER Lingus plane. "This trip is a dream come true."

The trip was organized by the

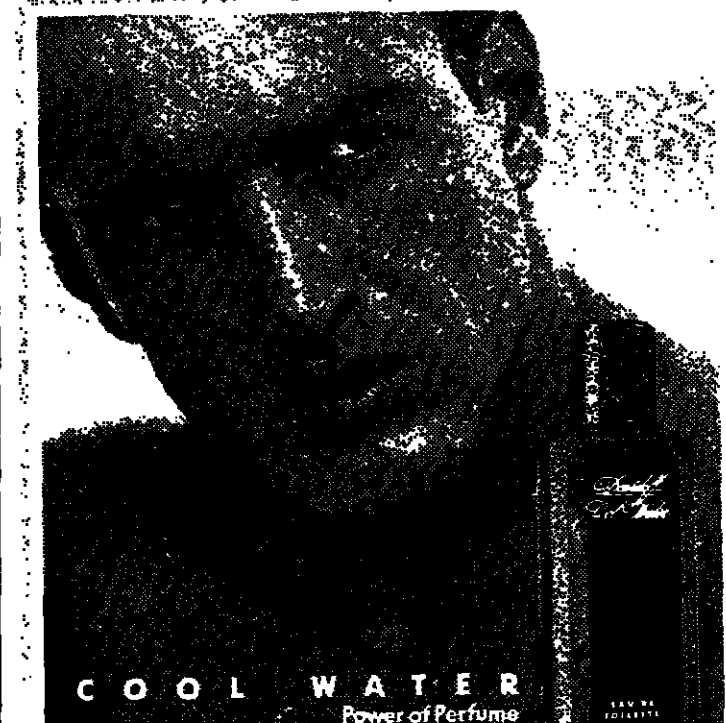
Irish Immigrant Reform Movement, which is campaigning for amnesty for the estimated 120,000 undocumented Irish in America.

"The young immigrants are proud to have been able to pay for this treat for their parents," group spokeswoman Patricia O'Reilly said. "It will bring into focus the traditional role of Irish life — the family."

During the two-week visit, the parents will attend a number of social functions and be brought on several coach tours. Most of them planned to join in New York's St Patrick's Day parade along Fifth Avenue next Sunday, O'Reilly said.

In addition, Irish government ministers who will visit the United States this week to attend St Patrick's Day celebrations will lobby American leaders for an amnesty for the young illegal Irish.

Illegal Irish immigrants typically find work in the United States in bars and construction sites, despite US law requiring employers to check for papers.



The Newest Fragrance from

Davidoff

Fau De Toilette • Shower Gel
After Shave • Body Lotion • Mild Deodorant Spray

Rifai & Jashanmal Co. W.L.L.
Telephone Nos. 2432420, 2420071/72.

M O U S H I R A
T S S A



Featuring recitals of Bach, Mozart, Chopin and Debussy. A performance not to be missed. 7:30 pm, Wednesday, 14th March 1990, in Ballroom A, at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel. Tickets now available.

Presented by

شيراتون الكويت
Kuwait Sheraton Hotel
The hospitality people of TIT

In co-ordination with:



Free

Free

A telephone VE-232 free gift on buying any of the two Panasonic Machines UF-140 or UF-130.

VE-232MN

Panasonic UF-130

Small size easy to use fax machine. An essential partner in your business. High precision in transmitted pictures and high speed in transmission.

Panasonic UF-140

Advanced small size fax machine. Two multi-purpose functions with 10 transmission stations. High transmission speed and high precision in transmission.

بناسونيك
Panasonic

Easa Hussain Al Yousifi

National Center — Abdulla Al Salem St — Al Yousifi bldg — Safat — Kuwait.
Tel 2436388, 2436399, 2436387, 2436395
Shuwaikh Showroom — at the crossing of 4th Ring Road with Ghazal St
Shuwaikh Tel. 4835205

INTERNATIONAL



Graham marvels

US evangelist Billy Graham, braving a steady rain and a reticent audience, on Saturday offered Berliners his prayers and a promise that "God will lead and direct you at this historic moment."

Standing bare-headed in the pouring rain in front of the Reichstag building, Germany's pre-war seat of Parliament, the 71-year-old Graham tried hard to stir religious passion within his audience. But on a cold and wet day, the crowd of less than 10,000 was markedly subdued.

Bonn rejects suggestion

German unity talks

BONN, March 11, (Reuters): West Germany has again rejected the suggestion that Poland should have a seat at the negotiating table when German unification is worked out.

Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble said today that the two German states and the four victorious world war two powers would work out the details themselves.

"We must of course inform and consult everyone — all our Nato partners and European neighbours," he said during a television discussion.

"But the decisive question will be discussed between the Germans — the two states in Germany — and the four powers. That does not suit anyone else in Europe, as we know."

In East Germany, campaigning for the country's first free elections on March 18 entered its last week with opinion polls showing that the Social Democrats (SPD) and a three-party conservative alliance might have to form a "grand coalition."

The polls suggested the

Alliance for Germany, backed by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and the SPD were running virtually neck-and-neck and neither would be able to form a government on its own.

Some Western diplomats believe such an outcome would make it harder to reach a consensus on key issues in East Berlin and could complicate unity talks.

The wartime allies — the United States, Soviet Union, Britain and France — will begin unity negotiations with West and East Germany in Bonn on Wednesday.

Former West German chancellor Willy Brandt said Sunday he hopes East German politicians would form a coalition when the communist-led country votes in its first free elections next Sunday.

In an interview with West German state radio, Brandt, who is honorary president of the Social Democratic parties in both Germany, said East Germany would need a government supported by more than one party during the process of unification.

The election is expected to

send the communists into an opposition role, but the rest of the vote seems likely to be split between conservative and non-communist leftist parties.

Poland should have a role in international talks on German unification, which should treat the Polish-German border as a priority, President Wojciech Jaruzelski said in a newspaper editorial published on Saturday.

"Poland need not formally take part in the conference but should intervene at a specific stage and be considered a wholly competent party," he told the daily *Quotidien de Paris*. "It would have the status of associate member and would not take part in the entire negotiating process."

The leader of millions of German exiles said today that neither Poland nor the Soviet Union had any legally established claim to German territory lost in World War Two.

"The first direct air link since World War Two between East and West German cities was opened on Saturday."

Ryzhkov may pose a threat to Gorbachev

WASHINGTON, March 11, (Reuters): Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov may be trying to position himself as a credible alternative to Mikhail Gorbachev if the Kremlin leader fails to deliver economic improvements soon, a senior US official said.

The official, one of the US administration's leading Soviet experts, said in an interview that Gorbachev could lose control of the situation in the Soviet Union if he did not show fairly prompt signs of economic success.

"The key for Gorbachev now is, he's got to begin to deliver something. He doesn't have to deliver a lot. What he has to do is to begin to show that he has the wherewithal and the ability to produce a better future," the official said on Friday.

"I think Ryzhkov is trying to position himself as the credible alternative...I wouldn't write him off. He might still be a kind of force looming there," he added.

Other Soviet experts believe Gorbachev has eliminated most political threats to his position and was about to secure even greater powers by having himself elected by the Supreme Soviet as executive president for a five-year term.

Some State Department experts believe Gorbachev benefits from the apparent absence of a credible alternative to him and that there is no one anxious to take on his huge problems.

But the senior official said that without certain prompt economic improvements, Gorbachev could be in danger.

"Gorbachev in my view faces two kinds of dangers. One is the emergence of a credible alternative and that isn't on the immediate horizon."

"The other is such an unravelling that he loses control. That's just hard to know," he said.

"What has happened in the Soviet Union is that the optimism that existed a couple of years ago has been replaced by a lot of pessimism."

"So now it becomes very important to be able to show some progress in the relatively near future — not that he's turned the corner, not that everything has changed — but at least in some important measure of how people judge how they're doing, they can see some improvement."

Ryzhkov is seen by the US administration as a somewhat half-hearted reformer and is the author of an economic plan unveiled last December that was viewed in Washington as a failure in view of the challenges facing the Soviet Union.

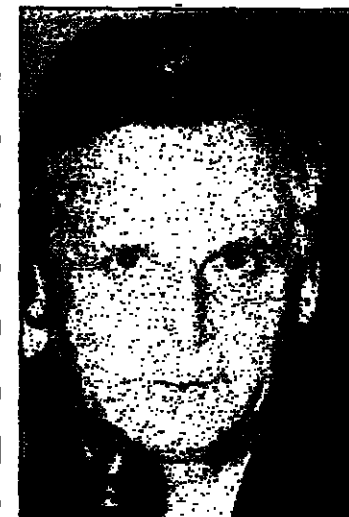
But many Soviet analysts say Ryzhkov's economic programme was severely restricted by what he believed he could get through parliament, which watered down proposals that deputies clearly felt could cost them votes.

The official said Ryzhkov's failure could count against him in an eventual challenge to Gorbachev.

"Gorbachev's real problem comes when he has a reform opponent who can in effect say, 'look, everybody knows I'm as committed to reform as anyone. But your tactics just don't work.'"

The official said Gorbachev was far from a solution on the question of burgeoning nationalist sentiments.

"The nationalities problem is the one they have least of a handle on in terms of being able to come up with a clear pathway," he said.



Ryzhkov

Lithuanian Parliament elects new President

First non-communist to hold a republic post

VILNIUS, Soviet Union, March 11, (Reuters): Lithuania's Parliament elected the head of a nationalist movement as the republic's president today, the first non-communist to occupy such a post in the Soviet Union.

Vytautas Landsbergis defeated the incumbent communist president Algirdas Brazauskas by a margin of more than two to one at the first session of the new Parliament.

Landsbergis, a music professor and leader of the pro-independence Sajudis movement, won 91 votes against only 38 for Brazauskas, the republic's Communist Party chief.

His resounding victory came two weeks after Sajudis candidates overwhelmed the Communist Party to capture the majority of the seats in the Lithuanian Parliament.

He was presented with a traditional embroidered mauve sash symbol of the republic's presidency.

Brazauskas, who took over the Communist Party leadership in 1988, broke its ties with the central party in Moscow in December to try to save communist fortunes amid an overwhelming wave of nationalist sentiment in Lithuania.

Although the move increased his personal popularity in the republic, the revamped Lithuanian Communist Party proved unable in parliament elections to defeat the grassroots Sajudis movement which had spearheaded the drive for restoration of independence.

The Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, as the Parliament is called, was due later to consider documents proclaiming the restoration of the independent Lithuanian republic first established in 1918.

Lithuania, like its sister Baltic republics of Latvia and Estonia, was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940 after Josef Stalin's Red Army occupied the republic.

Documents to be considered by the new Parliament included a resolution on Lithuanian independence and a world-wide appeal for support for the republic.

"Expressing the will of the people, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Lithuania resolves and solemnly proclaims the re-establishment of the sovereign rights of the Lithuanian state trumped upon by a foreign power in 1940," read the proposed resolution on independence.

The deputies were also expected to consider the restoration of the 1938 Lithuanian constitution and an appeal to Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev to authorise the Soviet army to remain in Lithuania pending negotiations on their final departure after independence.

They were also expected to pass legislation changing the name of the republic from the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic to the Republic of Lithuania.

Brazauskas, speaking to reporters before the vote unseating him from the presidency, said the proclamation of independence was likely to have a profound effect on other Soviet republics, particularly its Baltic neighbours and the restive republics in the south.

"This will be contagious for other republics," he said. "Perhaps some will follow our example. But a great state like the Soviet Union will not collapse easily."

During the debate before the vote, Landsbergis, 57, said Lithuanians were in a "state of anticipation and determination greater than fear."

"Who will prove better at turning this anticipation into reality? Be prompted in your choice by your honesty, your heart and your feelings," Landsbergis said.

The bespectacled Landsbergis pledged an independent Lithuania would seek good relations with its neighbours.



Landsbergis

Landsbergis, a music professor and leader of the pro-independence Sajudis movement, won 91 votes against only 38 for Brazauskas, the republic's Communist Party chief.

His resounding victory came two weeks after Sajudis candidates overwhelmed the Communist Party to capture the majority of the seats in the Lithuanian Parliament.

He was presented with a traditional embroidered mauve sash symbol of the republic's presidency.



Demonstrators gather in front of Supreme Soviet in Vilnius to greet newly elected deputies to parliamentary session. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorbachev opens plenum

Name change rejected

MOSCOW, March 11, (Agencies): Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev rejected today suggestions that the Soviet Communist Party had outlived its use and should change its name as part of reforms, Tass news agency said.

Gorbachev told the party's policy-making Central Committee that such a move would seriously harm the communists' ideological foundation, frustrate many members, and undermine communist parties abroad, the official news agency said.

"There is a lot of talk today about how the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) has outlived itself and needs to be replaced by another party with an original quality."

"The idea of renaming the CPSU as a social democratic, socialist, or other party is put forward," he said.

"I believe such a proposal cannot be accepted. Its implementation would conflict serious damage on the ideological foundation of the CPSU and would frustrate many communists and non-party people who support the CPSU as the party of high ideals," Gorbachev was quoted by Tass as saying.

Tass, which carried excerpts of Gorbachev's remarks to the closed plenary session, did not indicate who had proposed that the Soviet party change its name.

But some radical communists, particularly in the Baltic Republics have proposed name change similar to those made by former communist parties in East European countries to help



Some 2,000 demonstrators, some with portraits of rebel Soviet deputy Boris Yeltsin, stage a protest in Moscow's Gorky Park on Saturday against plans to create new presidential post. Placard reads "We don't need a premature president." (Reuters wirephoto)

restore the party's credibility among the people.

While rejecting a name change, Gorbachev said the party required drastic reforms. Specifically, he proposed revamping the ruling politburo into a presidium that would have leaders of the republican communist parties among its members.

Gorbachev, who is Soviet president and Communist Party chief, proposed calling a special party Congress on July 2 to carry out these and other changes, Tass said.

The Central Committee had already agreed to hold the Congress in late June or early July, but it was the first time a specific date had been proposed.

Hungary demands end to Soviet treaty

BUDAPEST, March 11, (Reuters): Soviet troops will start leaving Hungary tomorrow under a timetable for full withdrawal that front-running opposition parties say they want to speed up after Hungary's first free elections.

Two days after the withdrawal agreement was signed in Moscow, a first unit of 50,000 troops in Hungary will board a train west of Budapest for the journey home, Hungarian Defence Ministry sources said.

Saturday's accord sets June 30, 1991 as the withdrawal deadline and was signed by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn.

Horn called yesterday for an end to the mutual assistance treaty that Moscow used as the pretext for invading Hungary in 1956.

"This is a new page in Hungarian history," Horn told a news conference later.

It ends an uninterrupted Soviet military presence since World War Two in Warsaw Pact Hungary, where the troops have been particularly unwelcome since crushing a 1956 uprising.

The terms are similar to those Moscow agreed

earlier with Czechoslovakia but observers from three opposition parties who accompanied Horn to Moscow said they should be renegotiated after parliamentary elections on March 25 and April 8.

The parties, the Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD), the Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF), and the Federation of Young Democrats (Fidesz), want the last soldier out by as early as June this year. Their observers boycotted the signing ceremony.

"As observers we had no means available to really take a stand for the best interests of the Hungarian people or to achieve the best possible conditions," the AFD's Gabor Demszky told Hungary's MTI news agency in Moscow.

Opinion polls show the AFD and the HDF as election frontrunners, each with about 20 per cent of the votes and well ahead of the ruling Socialist Party founded by reformists from the Communist Party that governed Hungary alone for 45 years.

In Budapest, Fidesz co-founder Viktor Orbán said Soviet troops had to be out by next June 16, the 32nd anniversary of the execution for treason of Imre Nagy, who formed a multi-party government during the 1956 uprising.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Leaning Tower shut

PISA, Italy, March 11, (Reuters): The Leaning Tower of Pisa, closed in January because of danger to the public, will remain shut until at least 1993 while engineers try to stop it toppling over, Italy's public works minister said yesterday.

The 800-year-old tower, which leans about five metres (16.5 feet), was originally shut for three months after experts said it was dangerous for tourists to continue climbing it.

But the experts have still to produce a plan to shore up the foundations, and parliament has not yet approved the 140 billion lire (\$110 million) needed for the work.

"If parliament approves the draft law within the next two months, I really think that the main part of the work could be finished in three years and the tower could be opened again to the public," Minister Giovanni Prandini told reporters.

Mongolia reds stage first rally: Thousands of Mongolian communists staged their first rally in Ulan Bator on Sunday, criticising newly-formed opposition movements as undemocratic and calling two of their leaders traitors.

Residents in Ulan Bator contacted by telephone also said about 2,000 supporters of the opposition movements turned out for a separate Buddhist-inspired demonstration, but there were no clashes between the two.

They said the communist rally, attended by some 5,000 people in front of the capital's Lenin museum, was organised by six communist action groups formed on Saturday. Participants included farmers and government workers. (Reuters)

Austria: 'no vacancy' Austria, traditionally a beacon to Eastern European refugees, is putting up a "no vacancy" sign for Romanians, now pouring into the country at a rate of up to 180 a day.

Interior Minister Franz Leoschnak said Friday the government is expected within the next week to start requiring visas of Romanians wishing to enter the country.

Romanians currently need only a valid passport to enter Austria, and more than 7,000 have taken advantage of the lax regulations since the December revolution that overthrew communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. Unlike past refugees, many of the newcomers are fleeing economic hardship rather than political repression.

Shortages turn people into smugglers

LAZDUJ, USSR, March 11, (UPI): This small border crossing between Lithuania and Poland reflects the problems of decades of communist rule: a shortage of goods, pollution and inconvenience for the common man.

The border crossing reminds one of the middle ages, when caravans of travellers on horseback bartered goods from one country to another.

Now it's cars that are stuffed with goods.

Lithuanians travel to Poland to purchase higher quality clothes, spare parts

for cars, or electronic equipment in exchange for smuggled in gold, caviar and fur products. Poles who want to buy dollars or gold bring to Lithuania lots of roubles purchased cheaply in their own country.

In the middle ages, Poland was criss-crossed by trade routes leading between what is now Germany, Czechoslovakia and Russia. Today, poverty and the chance to make quick money has led to re-establishment of similar routes.

The town of Medyka on the Polish-Soviet border is important as a byway for

smugglers heading for Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria and even as far away as Hong Kong to buy cheap electronic equipment.

Customs officials slow things down, however. On average, they clear one car an hour, and the waiting time on weekends stretches up to 48 hours.

One walker had one pair of new shoes too many as he left Poland. He walked 500 yards across the border in a new pair, then carefully took them off and put on his old pair again.

The long waits sometimes explode into brawls.

Romanians interpreting freedom wrongly; crimes soar in Bucharest

BUCHAREST, March 11, (UPI): The dismantling of the police state in Romania has triggered a sharp rise in crime, according to police officials who conceded yesterday they are still unsure of their role in a democratic society.

National police spokesman Col Constantin Constantinescu said increases in homicides, politically motivated attacks and drug trafficking have been especially dramatic in the 2 1/2 months since the execution of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Also on the rise are automobile accidents, as newly liberated Romanians flaunt every traffic rule in the book, he said.

"People just don't know how to deal with their new-found freedom," Constantinescu

said.

The spokesman said 128 homicides have been recorded in the past two months alone. Reliable crime statistics for the period before the revolution are unavailable, but Constantinescu said the murder rate has risen sharply since the revolution.

A huge increase in political violence prompted the provisional government last month to enact new laws setting stiff penalties for anyone who physically attacks the property or officials of the government or any political party. But police said the attacks are continuing regardless.

"I expect it to get worse in the run-up to the elections," said Victor Tudor, spokesman for

the National Peasant Party, which has reported 27 separate attacks on its offices around the country since January.

"Some Romanians understand freedom the wrong way," Tudor said. "They think they can come over and hit you if they feel like it."

Also contributing to the crime wave was the decision by the provisional government to grant amnesty to 18,000 prison inmates serving sentences of less than five years, police said.

"They wanted to give them a chance, but it wasn't such a good idea," said a Bucharest officer who refused to give his name. "Most of them are back on the streets committing these offences, and now we have to try and catch them all over again."

In other developments the National Peasants' Party and the National Liberal Party joined with other smaller parties in drafting a demand for postponement to interim President Ion Iliescu.

The opposition contends that the National Salvation Front, which has led government since the December revolution that overthrew dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, has an advantage in elections held as early as May.

The drafting of the law marked the first time that the fractious opposition has openly joined forces in a bid to counter the Front's pursuit of long-term power.

It was not certain when the letter would be sent to Iliescu.



Mandela addresses a crowd of 20,000 ecstatic supporters at his first political rally in Tanzania. Mandela had been awarded the Order of the Torch of Kilimanjaro. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mandela's trip to Sweden cut short

STOCKHOLM, March 11, (Reuters): Nelson Mandela's trip to Sweden next week to visit ANC leader Oliver Tambo has been shortened by one day because of an outbreak of violence in South Africa but will still take place, organisers said.

Senior African National Congress (ANC) officials including secretary-general Alfred Nzo and chief foreign affairs spokesman Thabo Mbeki have arrived in Stockholm to coordinate Mandela's four-day stay starting tomorrow.

But a fifth day which would have culminated with a mass rally in Stockholm's Globe arena has been cancelled in view of the racial and political violence in which 10 people were killed at the start of the weekend, Swedish organisers of the visit said yesterday.

The Swedish government issued a programme for Mandela's visit, his first outside Africa since he was released in February after 27 years in South African prisons.

Mandela will arrive tomorrow at Stockholm's Arlanda airport.

ANC officials said he would visit the Stockholm clinic where ANC president Oliver Tambo is being treated after a stroke left him partly paralysed last year.

On Tuesday Mandela will meet Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, whose Social Democratic Party has given unwavering support and funds to the ANC. Later the same day Mandela will address Sweden's single-chamber parliament.

On Wednesday he is scheduled to meet British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock and Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, president of the British anti-apartheid movement.

Huddleston spent 12 politically turbulent years in South Africa from 1943 during which he backed the rights of blacks and forged close friendships with ANC leaders such as Mandela, Tambo and Walter Sisulu.

Cyril Ramaphosa, head of the South African National Union of Mineworkers, has also travelled to Sweden to meet Mandela next week, ANC officials said.

Ivorian leader arrested

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, March 11, (AP): An opposition leader was placed under house arrest yesterday after demanding multiparty democracy and expressing support for demonstrators protesting austerity measures.

Soldiers surrounded Laurent Gbagbo's house and prevented reporters from entering. Gbagbo was allowed to make telephone calls. He said he was ordered to remain at the house

after he returned from the French embassy. At the embassy, he was refused a visa to travel to France to participate in a television debate on African economies.

Gbagbo has been under house arrest twice in the past two years. He is a history professor who founded the unauthorised Ivorian Popular Front eight years ago and has been calling for multiparty elections.

COMPUTER COURSES AT KUWAIT UNIVERSITY

1. Introduction to PC and DOS (Arabic & English).
2. English Word Processing And Office Management using Wordstar 2000 plus, Form Tool and SideKick packages.
3. Data Management using DBASE III plus and LOTUS 123 interlinked.
4. Programming with BASIC Language.
5. Engineering and Graphics Design using AUTOCAD version 10.
6. Advanced Techniques using AUTOCAD version 10.
7. PC in Civil Engineering using STAAD III (for Civil Engineers only).

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW

At the PC Center, Main Building (K2) Khalidiah Campus, any time between 8:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Courses start March 31st
Lectures 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. (during Ramadan)
6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (after Ramadan)
Two lectures a week

For information call :
4842548/4841068/4839835/6/4843280

DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING & TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (DTECH)
At Khawarizmi Program

Successor pledges transfer of power: US hails

Haiti dictator Avril resigns

US offers to help Haiti set up polls

PORT-AU-PRINCE, March 11, (Agencies): Haiti's military ruler, Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril, resigned yesterday, and his temporary successor said a government led by a civilian would be named within 72 hours.

Maj. Gen. Herard Abraham appeared on television at 3.05 pm (2105 GMT) and said he had been placed temporarily in charge of the country. He promised to transfer power to a panel led by the Supreme Court president by tomorrow.

"The army forces of Haiti accept the heavy task incumbent upon it," said Abraham.

The general, wearing his uniform and speaking in French said: "It was the duty of the army to defend and serve the fatherland."

"The mission is clear and the objective is precise: to re-establish peace and order within 72 hours so, in conformity with the constitution, a provisional government can organize elections," he said.

Thousands of people demonstrated in downtown Port-Au-Prince to celebrate. It was the fifth transition of power in Haiti since February 1986, when dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier fled to exile.

Youths erected flaming tire barricades at intersections and black smoke filled the sky over the capital, Radio Metropole, an independent station, said some houses of Duvalier and Avril sympathisers had been ransacked.

Abraham went on television shortly after the independent television station Tele-Haiti reported that Avril had resigned.



A Haitian man raises his arms while standing behind a bonfire of looted items from a government office in Port Au Prince. Opposition supporters celebrating Gen. Prosper Avril's surrender of power looted the building during the celebrations. (Reuters wirephoto)

Avril promised but didn't deliver

Democracy shies away

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, March 11, (Agencies): When Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril came to power in 1988 after a soldier's revolt, hopes rose that Haiti might at last be headed for democracy.

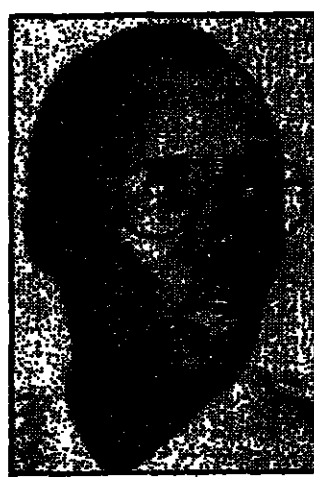
A week before the coup Sept 17, 1988, thugs armed with machetes, guns and spears stormed the Roman Catholic church of the Rev. Bertrand Aristide, an outspoken government critic, and massacred a dozen people.

The killings led to a split in the military and low-ranking soldiers revolted against Lt. Henri Namphy, the army chief of staff who took charge of the government after dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier fled to France in 1986.

The soldier's rebellion was not believed to have been led by Avril, who was army chief of staff at the time. But a day after the coup, Avril declared himself president.

He went on national television and promised the impoverished Caribbean nation democratic reforms and free presidential elections. Haitians were sceptical.

A quiet, calm man, Avril, 51, never seemed comfortable in the public eye. He had been in the background as a financial adviser to Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier. After Duvalier's death on April 21, 1971, Avril contin-



Avril

ued advising Duvalier's son, Jean-Claude "Baby Doc."

In the close relationship that spanned the 20 years of Duvalier reign, critics called Avril their "bagman." He reportedly became a millionaire and negotiated military weapons and equipment sales abroad.

But he won support a few months into his rule, holding public meetings with civilian political leaders, speaking with union bosses and restoring most articles of

the 1987 constitution, which had been suspended under Namphy.

He also approved the formation of an independent electoral council that would organise and oversee planned general elections. Despite their scepticism, many thought it was better to work with Avril than against him.

"You're not going to get power if there's not a reasonable understanding with those boys," Marc Bazin, a former World Bank economist, said at the time.

The US government has expressed mixed feelings about Avril. In a human rights report, it said the Haitian army was linked to human rights abuses in rural areas but said it "avoided the egregious violations, massacres and politically motivated killings — characteristic of his predecessors."

Nevertheless, in March last year, it tied to the resumption of \$60 million in aid to democratic reforms and co-operation in fighting drug-trafficking. Immediately afterwards, Avril's government accused four high-ranking army officers of drug trafficking and discharged them.

But Avril proved he had the loyalty of his 1,100-member presidential guard last April when it put down a rebellion by two army units.

Chronology

PORT-AU-PRINCE, March 11, (Reuters): Here's a chronology of recent events in Haiti:

February 7, 1986 — president-for-life Jean Claude Duvalier flees into exile after uprising, ending 29-year family dictatorship. Army chief Lieutenant-General Henri Namphy named to oversee two-year transition to democracy.

March 29, 1987 — liberal constitution overwhelmingly approved in referendum.

November 29, 1987 — gunmen linked to the Duvalier dictatorship and the army halt civilian-run elections, killing at least 34 people.

January 17, 1988 — political scientist Leslie Manigat elected president in army-run elections.

June 20, 1988 — Manigat overthrown by Namphy.

September 17, 1988 — Namphy overthrown by presidential guard enraged by attacks on churchgoers by members of Duvalier's former secret army.

Namphy is replaced by Lieutenant-General Prosper Avril, a former Duvalier aide who promises elections and civilian rule.

April 2, 1989 — members of the counterinsurgency Leopards battalion arrest Avril after he tries to force out officers thought involved in drug trafficking. He is rescued by presidential guard.

The army's Desmarches barracks battalion later joins the uprising but coup is crushed by April 10, with at least 35 people killed.

January 20 — Avril declares state of siege, cracking down on political opposition. State of siege lifted after 10 days.

March 5 — troops open fire on protest March, killing 11-year-old girl.

March 8 — protests spread nationwide. At least three people are killed in stampede.

The turmoil prompts talks between opposition and Avril for the president to step down.

March 10 — Avril resigns presidency. Acting army chief of staff Brigadier-General Herard Abraham named as successor to turn over power to interim government which will oversee elections.

The group occupied the offices for several hours until an armed FBI unit, State Department officials and a police SWAT team arrived and talked them into surrendering, said FBI spokesman Paul Miller.

March 11 — Avril's resignation is announced. He is expected to leave the country within 72 hours.

The United States hopes that the latest developments will lead to a democratic government in Haiti and urged Haitians to avoid further bloodshed, demand.

In Miami, about 100 demonstrators entered the Haitian consulate in Miami yesterday, demanding a say in naming a new consul following the resignation of Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril as the nation's military ruler.

The group occupied the offices for several hours until an armed FBI unit, State Department officials and a police SWAT team arrived and talked them into surrendering, said FBI spokesman Paul Miller.

March 11 — Avril's resignation is announced. He is expected to leave the country within 72 hours.

The United States hopes that the latest developments will lead to a democratic government in Haiti and urged Haitians to avoid further bloodshed, demand.

In Miami, about 100 demonstrators entered the Haitian consulate in Miami yesterday, demanding a say in naming a new consul following the resignation of Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril as the nation's military ruler.

The group occupied the offices for several hours until an armed FBI unit, State Department officials and a police SWAT team arrived and talked them into surrendering, said FBI spokesman Paul Miller.

March 11 — Avril's resignation is announced. He is expected to leave the country within 72 hours.

The United States hopes that the latest developments will lead to a democratic government in Haiti and urged Haitians to avoid further bloodshed, demand.

In Miami, about 100 demonstrators entered the Haitian consulate in Miami yesterday, demanding a say in naming a new consul following the resignation of Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril as the nation's military ruler.

The group occupied the offices for several hours until an armed FBI unit, State Department officials and a police SWAT team arrived and talked them into surrendering, said FBI spokesman Paul Miller.

March 11 — Avril's resignation is announced. He is expected to leave the country within 72 hours.

The United States hopes that the latest developments will lead to a democratic government in Haiti and urged Haitians to avoid further bloodshed, demand.

In Miami, about 100 demonstrators entered the Haitian consulate in Miami yesterday, demanding a say in naming a new consul following the resignation of Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril as the nation's military ruler.

The group occupied the offices for several hours until an armed FBI unit, State Department officials and a police SWAT team arrived and talked them into surrendering, said FBI spokesman Paul Miller.

March 11 — Avril's resignation is announced. He is expected to leave the country within 72 hours.

The United States hopes that the latest developments will lead to a democratic government in Haiti and urged Haitians to avoid further bloodshed, demand.

In Miami, about 100 demonstrators entered the Haitian consulate in Miami yesterday, demanding a say in naming a new consul following the resignation of Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril as the nation's military ruler.

The group occupied the offices for several hours until an armed FBI unit, State Department officials and a police SWAT team arrived and talked them into surrendering, said FBI spokesman Paul Miller.

March 11 — Avril's resignation is announced. He is expected to leave the country within 72 hours.

The United States hopes that the latest developments will lead to a democratic government in Haiti and urged Haitians to avoid further bloodshed, demand.

In Miami, about 100 demonstrators entered the Haitian consulate in Miami yesterday, demanding a say in naming a new consul following the resignation of Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril as the nation's military ruler.

The group occupied the offices for several hours until an armed FBI unit, State Department officials and a police SWAT team arrived and talked them into surrendering, said FBI spokesman Paul Miller.

VACANCIES

Needed for a major photographic company the following vacancies.

FIRST: Photo Retail Supervisor

- Applicants must have the following qualifications:
- Suitable experience in selling consumer products.
 - Previous experience in retail shops supervision for at least a year.
 - A suitable academic qualification.
 - Proficiency in both English and Arabic.
 - A transferable residence visa.

SECOND: Photo products Salesman/Salesgirl

- Applicants must have the following qualifications:
- Previous experience in retail shops.
 - A suitable academic qualification.
 - A transferable residence visa.

Interested applicants holding these qualifications can apply for either vacancy.

A recent photograph and photocopies of the academic and field qualifications are to be attached to the applications forwarded.

For application contact:
Al-Yarmouk Area, Area No. 3, St. No. 3, Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Complex, Opposite Al Yarmouk Secondary School for boys.
between: 8.00 am - 12.00 noon
4.00 - 7.00 pm

End of Season Fashion at a Snap!

Now is the time to take advantage of the great BHS end of season offer with great styles for men, women and children that you'll just want to snap up. So, pay a visit to our Salmiya store for a fabulous collection just to make you look good!

BHS

North Salmiya Building
Salem Al Mubarak Street Tel. 5717187

QUALITY PRODUCTS
FROM M. H. Al-Sayid Co.

INTERNATIONAL

Selma march 'got to go on'

MONTGOMERY, Alabama, March 11. (AP) Civil rights activists commemorating the 25th anniversary of an historic black march began their final walk toward Alabama's Capitol yesterday, chanting and singing their way through the cradle of the confederacy.

"We could not stop in Montgomery in 1965. We cannot stop today," said Jesse Jackson, a leading US black rights activist and two-time presidential candidate. "We've got to go on to Washington, where there's the budget to shift national priorities."

A mostly black crowd of about 1,000

Marchers began the two-mile (3.2-kilometre) walk to downtown Montgomery, where 25,000 people gathered in 1965 to demand voting rights for blacks. In both marches they headed for the white-domed Capitol, where Jefferson Davis was sworn in as president of the breakaway southern territory whose separation started the US civil war in the 1860s. The banner of the Confederacy, as the separatist territory was called, still flies over the building, despite protest by blacks, whose ancestors were slaves in the old south.

Jackson and others, including Coretta

Scott King, the widow of Martin Luther King Jr. and US representative John Lewis were scheduled to speak on the Capitol steps.

On Friday night, actor Lou Gossett Jr. acted as master of ceremonies for a programme featuring musical styles ranging from Broadway to rap in an attempt to draw a huge crowd for yesterday's march.

Singer Melba Moore, rap artist Jessie West and civil rights activist-comedian Dick Gregory were some of the celebrities on hand.

"You have to carry it on," Gossett told

the cheering crowd of about 2,000 people. "You have to carry it in your hearts, in your lifestyles... you have to think about it and carry it on."

In 1965, Peter, Paul and Mary, Harry Belafonte, Joan Baez and other entertainers performed the night before the march to help drum up a crowd.

This week about 150 people made the 50-mile (80-kilometre) walk along the four-lane highway linking Selma with Montgomery, and an organiser said it was an invigorating experience for young and old.

Nicaragua adopts law for amnesty

Sandinistas pre-handover step

MANAGUA, March 11. (Renter) The Nicaraguan National Assembly passed a law yesterday granting amnesty to public officials who may have committed crimes such as bribery and embezzlement during 10 years of Sandinista rule.

Deputies in the Sandinista-dominated legislature said the law, passed by a vote of 66-3-3, will protect outgoing officials from possible "witch hunts" by the new government.

The amnesty law is part of a series of laws proposed by the Sandinistas to strengthen and protect themselves before they hand over power on April 25 to the pro-US government of Violeta Chamorro.

The law grants amnesty to public officials who may have committed offences between July 19, 1979 — the day the Sandinistas seized power in a revolution — and the moment the law takes effect. It was not clear how long it would take for the law to be signed into effect.



Ortega makes a nationally televised address in which he accused the US of not supporting the demobilisation of the Contras and called for international pressure on Washington to force the rebels to disarm. (Reuters wirephoto)

Original versions of the law that extended the amnesty for public officials through March 31 brought outcry from opposition leaders saying it would give officials free hand until the end of the month to rob the public coffers.

The law also grants amnesty for the US-backed Contra rebels as well as for possible crimes committed by Sandinista soldiers during their war with the rebels.

The legislature is also considering a law to turn over ownership of 10,000 houses currently owned by the state to their occupants and grant university autonomy, moves which will strengthen the Sandinistas' position as an option party.

Meanwhile, President Daniel Ortega called for Nicaraguans to work toward a peaceful transition of government before heading for a tour of Venezuela, Chile and Brazil during which he was expected to seek support for efforts to disband the Contras before the handover.

Ortega, who was soundly beaten by Chamorro in February 25 elections, said in a speech that he backed the amnesty law and called for Nicaraguans to adopt a "constructive spirit" in the wake of the vote.

Leaders of Chamorro's National Opposition Union said earlier that Sandinista activists were "massively and indiscriminately" looting government goods and handing out homes, cars and other state property to party supporters.

"This is a premeditated policy of leaving government coffers bare" when Ortega steps down, said Gustavo Tablada, a leader of the 14-party coalition's political council.

Conservative assemblyman Cesar Augusto Castillo said the amnesty also covers former Interior Ministry official Reynaldo Aguado Monteleague, accused of treason in 1986 for allegedly passing information to the Central Intelligence Agency.

Family members say Castillo, one of the country's principal political prisoners, is ailing in jail, the result of alleged "physical and psychological torture" in past months.

Chamorro has said she will forgive her husband's slayers if it brings about national reconciliation.

Some Contra rebels, with guns, women and loaded mules, are quietly leaving for Nicaragua from Honduras not intending to return.

"Adios Yamales," said a 34-year-old Contra commander, bidding farewell to the 12,000-man camp in eastern Honduras which has been his base and sanctuary for more than two years.

He was heading a troop of 60 fighters, many of whom said they were going to Nicaragua to ensure the ruling Sandinistas handed over power to their elected successors.

Senior Contra officials deny any troops have left Honduras since the elections.

Poll to influence anti-drug policy

Colombia chooses leader

BOGOTA, March 11. (AP) Colombians went to the polls today to choose a Liberal Party candidate for president who likely will lead the war on drugs for the next four years, analysts say.

"Technically we are nominating a candidate, but what we are really doing today is electing a president," said Mauricio Vargas, managing editor of the weekly magazine Semana.

Vargas and other observers have given the opposition Conservative Party little chance of winning the presidency in scheduled May elections unless there is a split in the ruling Liberal Party.

That prospect was significantly diminished last Monday when the three leading contenders for the Liberal nomination pledged to support the winner of today's vote — as long as he received 100,000 more votes than his nearest rival.

"Political parties can always become divided, but the agreement will help prevent such a split," Hernandez Duran Dusan, one of the leading contenders, said in an interview last week with the Associated Press.

Polls show that Duran is running behind Cesar Gaviria, the former campaign chief for the late Sen. Luis Carlos Galan. Gaviria began campaigning for the nomination after Galan was shot and killed by drug traffickers last August 18.

The 69-year-old Duran, however, can depend on the party's political machinery to guarantee him well over a million of the estimated 7 million votes to be cast in today's election. Duran entered politics in the early 1940s and since then has held several political posts including house representative and senator for his home state of Meta as well as

ministerial positions and ambassadorships under five administrations.

With far less political experience than Duran, Gaviria, 43, has tried to foster a populist image of himself as the successor of Galan, whose rebellions against the party establishment earned him a big following among independent-minded voters.

Another candidate, Ernesto Samper, is given little chance of winning, but could draw enough votes in a big turnout to gain significant influence over the direction of the party's policies.

Opinion is split on whether the next administration's policy toward drug traffickers may or may not diverge from President Virgilio Barco's.

Hours after Galan's killing last August, Barco went on television to announce a major government offensive against the cocaine cartels. Since then his administration has extradited 14 drug suspects, killed Medellin cartel leader Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, and confiscated hundreds of properties belonging to the cocaine magnates.

Traffickers responded with a bombing campaign that killed more than 200 Colombians before Pablo Escobar and other Medellin cartel leaders decided to change strategies in mid-January. They declared a unilateral truce in the war, pledging to abandon their illicit business and to surrender themselves in exchange for an end to extradition.

Aware that traffickers have been able to evade Colombian justice by bribing and killing judges, Barco has publicly refused to put extradition, his main weapon against the cartels, on the negotiating table.

Mexican opposition alleges human rights abuse

MEXICO CITY, March 11. (UPI) Mexico's third-largest political force said last week it intends to denounce alleged human rights violations by government security forces in the southern Mexican state of Guerrero.

A commission of the Party of the Democratic Revolution, known by its Spanish acronym PRD, visited the United Nations offices in Mexico City.

"The executive committee of the PRD is going to present an extensively documented case to the United Nations and the Organisation of American States detailing violations of human rights and (against) citizens by the

Mexican government," PRD spokesman Cuauhtemoc Sandoval said.

"Just since January there have been 56 political killings that the government has failed to clear up," Sandoval said.

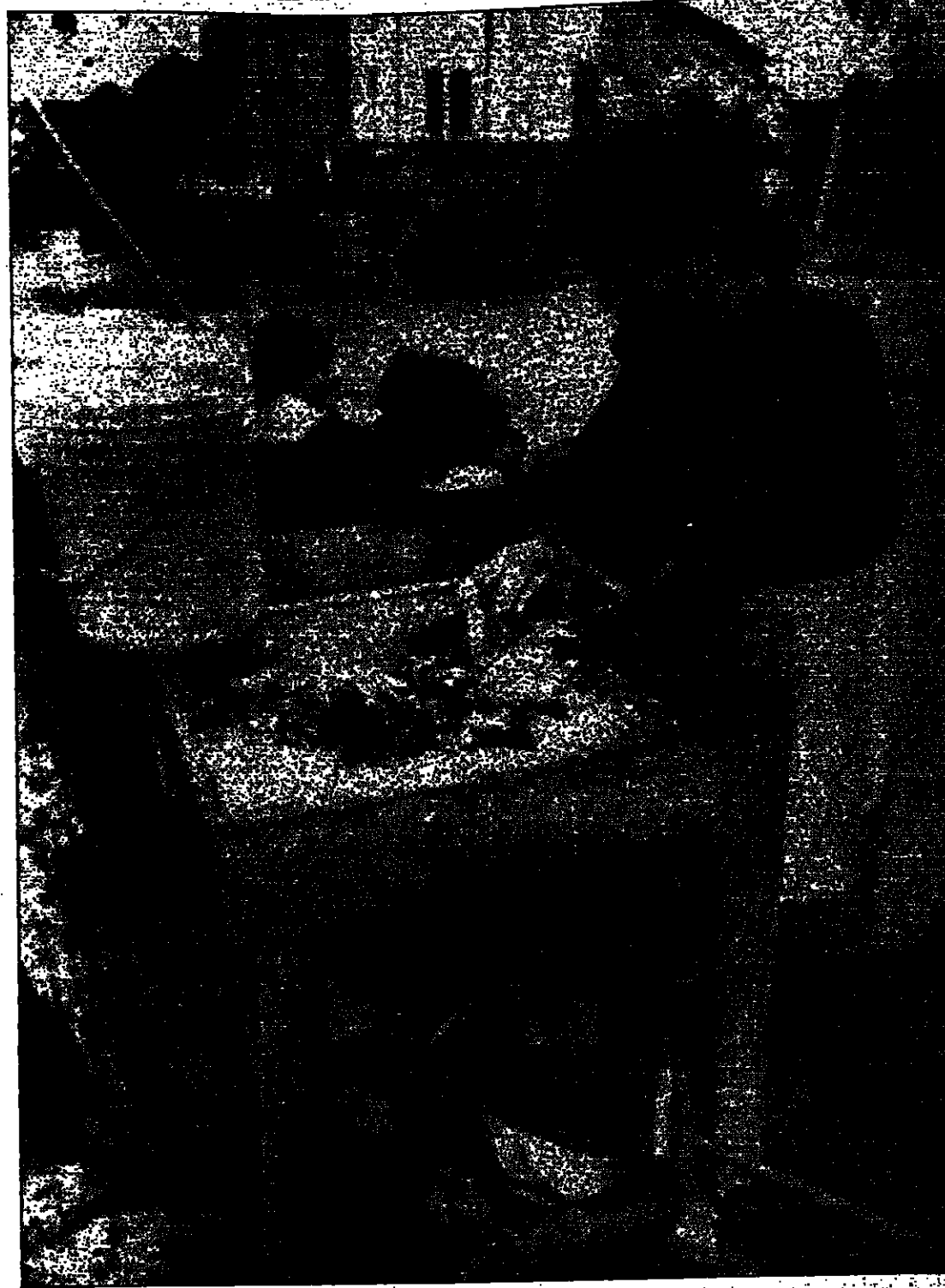
He said the Interior Ministry has reported the deaths of suspected PRD militants at the hands of common criminals, an explanation he called "contradictory" and "unconvincing."

Last week, the national executive committee of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, issued a statement saying the Interior Ministry's human rights department

had responded to a PRI denunciation made Jan 30 in which the ruling party charged dozens of its members suffered violence at the hands of PRD followers.

In the statement, the PRI said 27 cases of homicide and an undetermined number of injuries, kidnappings and other crimes committed since January 1989 had been satisfactorily cleared up by the government. The statement gave no details of the alleged violence.

The controversy in Guerrero centres on the results of Dec 3 elections in which the PRI claims victory.



Managua slum

Elena Reyes washes clothes outside her house in a south Managua slum where her family has squatted for seven years. The National Assembly was set to discuss a law proposed by FSLN that would grant titles to families who have built houses on land that is not theirs. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Missing' widow returns to Chile: The widow of an American whose arrest and slaying in a 1973 military coup inspired the movie "Missing" returned to Chile on Saturday to witness the end of Gen. Augusto Pinochet's 16-year rule.

Joyce Horman, invited by the elected government that took power yesterday, told reporters at Santiago's airport she did not expect the political change to produce any new information about her husband's death.

"At this point, it's hard to expect many new details about that period," she said. "It would be good to know, but I have little hope."

Charles Horman, then 29, was among thousands of people arrested when Pinochet seized power in a bloody Sept 11, 1973, coup. It toppled the elected government of President Salvador Allende. Norman, a free-lance journalist, and his wife were living in Chile at the time. (AP)

100 still missing in Amazon: Divers searched the Amazon river Friday for some 100 people missing and believed drowned in the sinking of an overloaded passenger boat.

The drivers searched the river for the passenger boat "El Andresito," which sank Tuesday night after starting on fire and striking an anchored cargo boat and a floating dock.

Officials and survivors said the boat was designed for 70 passengers but carried some 240. It contained no lifejackets, life boats, fire extinguishers or communications equipment, officials said.

Authorities said only one body had been recovered by Thursday night, that of a 3-year-old girl. Officials had originally put the number of missing at 80 but later raised the number. (UPI)

Salvadoran army steps up security: Salvador's armed forces stepped up security Saturday, spreading out across the country to counter a renewed guerrilla offensive that brought heavy fighting to several eastern cities.

"In response to the new rebel campaign, the army is increasing its military activity throughout the country to minimise the terrorist activity," a spokesman for the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN, launched heavy attacks Friday on coffee processing plants in two eastern cities.

The guerrillas descended from the mountains before dawn Friday on Santiago de Maria, 52 miles (83 km) southeast of San Salvador in Usulután province, and battled government troops until late in the afternoon. (UPI)

Unshielded radiation pellet found: Investigators are tracing the route of an unshielded pellet of radioactive material found Thursday in a routine shipment from Korea to an industrial radiation materials supplier, the nuclear regulatory commission said Friday.

A pellet the size of a pencil eraser, tentatively identified as iridium-192, was found inside a wooden crate of supposedly empty "source changer" devices being returned to Amergham Industries Inc. in Burlington, said spokesman Karl Abraham of the NRC regional office in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

Source changers, each the size of a shoe box, are used to ship radioactive pellets used in industrial radiography from a manufacturer to the ultimate user. (UPI)

Bombing of Rogers' van unsolved: For the past year, the charred shell of Sharon Rogers' family van has been locked in storage, waiting for someone to determine who planted a pipe bomb under the Navy wife's vehicle — and why.

The explosion of the Toyota minivan last March 10 was initially thought to be a reprisal for the deaths of 290 Iranians aboard a civilian plane mistakenly shot down by the USS Vincennes under orders from Rogers' husband, Capt Will C. Rogers III.

A year later, the image of the blackened van at a suburban intersection is still vivid. But fears that the attack was the work of foreign terrorists have dimmed as investigators failed to find any firm leads.

Federal agents have neither ruled out nor confirmed the theory that the van was blown up by an operative working for the late Iranian leader, Ayatollah Khomeini. (UPI)

Lesotho king leaves for exile: King Moshoeshoe II, stripped off authority over his tiny mountain kingdom, left for temporary exile in Britain Saturday after refusing to endorse the actions of Lesotho's military ruler in a recent power struggle.

US team attends Aylwin inauguration

Quayle in Chile touts democracy

SANTIAGO, March 11. (AP) US Vice-President Dan Quayle, on a six-nation tour of the hemisphere, praised the return to democracy in Latin America yesterday on the eve of Chile's return to civilian government after 16 years of military rule.

"We have made tremendous gains in democratic values in this last decade," Quayle said in a statement upon arriving. "In 1980, 20 per cent of the people of Latin America lived under democratic rule. Today, 95 per cent of the people of Latin America live under democratic rule."

"Democracy being implemented in Chile has been a good example for the entire world and has been an inspiration for the people of Nicaragua as they too have voted for democracy," the vice president said.

Senator Edward Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, a member of the US delegation, touched on the Pinochet government's record of human rights abuses and paid "homage to all those who have done so much to restore democracy in Chile." He said he would not have missed today's inauguration "for anything in the world."

"It is an honour to participate in this extraordinary moment and breathe the free air of Chile," Kennedy said. "I want to pay homage to the hundreds and thousands of people who have been tortured, brutalised, but who never lost faith."

Perhaps in past administrations there were differences of opinion in the United States with regard to human rights and about the best way to restore democracy in Chile, but today we

are united in the United States looking toward the future," the senator said.

Chile was Quayle's third stop on a six-nation tour of the hemisphere. The vice president is leading a US delegation that will attend the inauguration today of president-elect Patricio Aylwin. Before the ceremonies, Quayle was to meet with military President Augusto Pinochet.

Pinochet, 74, came to power in a 1973 coup d'etat that ousted elected President Salvador Allende. He will remain as commander of the 60,000-member Chilean army.

Chilean voters, in a 1988 referendum, rejected Pinochet's bid for another eight-year term in power. The military president agreed to hold elections and Aylwin, a 71-year-old veteran politician, won the December balloting.

Pinochet, with a cry of "long live Chile," bade farewell to the nation in a taped address last night, urging support for the new civilian government and saying he will always be ready to confront the nation's enemies. He then left the presidential palace for the last time as president.

In addition to attending Aylwin's inauguration, Quayle will meet with Britain's Deputy Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe and Latin American leaders, including Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, Uruguayan President Alberto Lacalle and Ecuadorian President Rodrigo Borge.

Before flying to Santiago, Quayle met for 40 minutes in Bridgetown, Barbados, with Prime Minister Erskine Sandford and other Caribbean leaders.

Chinese family puts Bush policy to test

BUFFALO, New York, March 11. (AP) Last fall, President George Bush invited people fleeing countries where population control is accomplished by forced abortions and sterilisations to seek asylum in the United States.

But a Chinese family that is apparently the first to accept that invitation is beginning to wonder whether it was made sincerely.

The order enabled Li Jin Lin and his family, who previously had been separated and threatened with jail, the right to live and work temporarily in the United States.

Their application to live here permanently, however, is imprisoned in the government bureaucracy.

Government officials refuse to say what's holding the case up, but the family's lawyer, Kathleen Rimar, said she is beginning to doubt Bush's commitment to protecting Chinese refugees.

"These four Chinese people came here right at the worst time," Rimar said. "They seem to be the testing case for whether this is going to work. So far, I think the executive order isn't doing very well."

Bush's directive allows foreign nationals who are fleeing forced abortion or sterilisation policies to apply for political asylum in the United States.

The directive, though not specifically for Chinese, was part of a Nov 30 order allowing many Chinese citizens to remain in the United States indefinitely after the June 1989 killings of pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing.

Bush made the order while vetoing stiff sanctions against China. Li, a 37-year-old machinist, and his 34-year-old wife, Wang Sai Zhen, fled the city of Fuzhou after Ms. Wang became pregnant with the couple's second child. She had undergone several abortions and was told another would endanger her life.

The couple and their 19-year-old nephew, Chun Kong Cheuns, made their way to Canada and paid smugglers about \$1,500 each to get them into the United States, according to the government.

Lockerbie warning was specific

WASHINGTON, March 11. (UPI) A US embassy official stationed in Moscow said yesterday a terrorist threat that led to the explosion of Pan American flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988 was "more specific than we usually receive."

The employee's sworn testimony before a government panel examining aviation security renewed questions over the Federal Aviation Administration's decision not to alert airline passengers of a markedly increased threat on flights departing from Frankfurt, West Germany.

"I said I felt we had a responsibility to provide this information more broadly," said Raymond Smith, the former political counsellor at the US embassy who reviewed the threat. Smith noted that the so-called Helsinki cable contained information stating a threat against the specific carrier, the route and a two-week period over which a plane would be targeted.

Pan Am flight 103 from Frankfurt to New York exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland Dec 21, 1988, within the two-week period. All 259 passengers aboard died.

Smith, now the embassy's acting deputy chief of mission, said US Ambassador Jack Matlock considered the threat so serious that he took the unprecedented action of posting a notice in the embassy warning employees, the press and travellers of the possible threat.

Although the notice was dispatched to all US embassies around the world and European airports one week before the Lockerbie disaster, the FAA refused to alert airline passengers.

"I think it would be reasonable to assume that people would change their plans" if they knew of a potential threat, said Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., a member of the president's commission on aviation security and terrorism. "You'd have to be pretty dumb not to take notice of it."

Heroin trafficking on the rise

WASHINGTON, March 11. (UPI) While attention in the United States is focused on the cocaine war being fought in South America, heroin trafficking from Southeast Asia appears to be on the rise, experts and senators agreed yesterday.

Witnesses told a joint Senate panel on narcotics and Southeast Asia that both the demand for and supply of heroin are increasing worldwide.

"Some experts believe the United States is now on the verge of a new heroin epidemic," said panel chairman Senator John Kerry, Democrat of Massachusetts.

Production of heroin, believed to be more potent than ever, has more than doubled in the past four years to over 4,000 tons annually, said David Westrate, a Drug Enforcement Administration official.

The Golden Triangle of Burma, Laos and Thailand is considered the world's largest source of heroin, which is produced from opium extracted from poppies.



Congratulations

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat (left) and Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral congratulate each other on the start of a special meeting of Non-Aligned countries devoted to Palestine in Tunis today. (Reuter wirephoto)

Christian forces clash: one killed

Beirut truce breached

BEIRUT, March 11, (Reuter): Lebanese gunmen swapped machine-gun fire in east Beirut today in fighting that has splintered for three days despite a ceasefire in the war for control of the Christian enclave.

Security sources said one civilian was killed in the clashes between troops loyal to General Michel Aoun and militiamen of the Lebanese Forces (LF) in Sin El Fil neighbourhood.

Fighting with heavy machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades in the same area for the past two days has killed seven people and wounded seven others.

The skirmishes breached a truce declared on March 2 that halted ferocious tank, artillery and rocket battles. More than 800 people have been killed and 2,650 wounded in fighting that started on Jan 31 when Aoun ordered Samir Geagea's LF to disband.

Christian intermediaries, backed by France and the Vatican, have so far failed to hammer out a political settlement to the feud despite repeated meetings and talks with Aoun and Geagea.

Both leaders have made conciliatory statements but Christian political sources said neither was willing to make concessions.

The battles between Aoun's 15,000 troops and the 10,000-strong militia have dealt a massive blow to the country's infrastructure and economy, already battered by 15 years of civil war.

Whole residential, industrial and commercial districts have been devastated and Beirut and its suburbs have been deprived of drinking water and power.

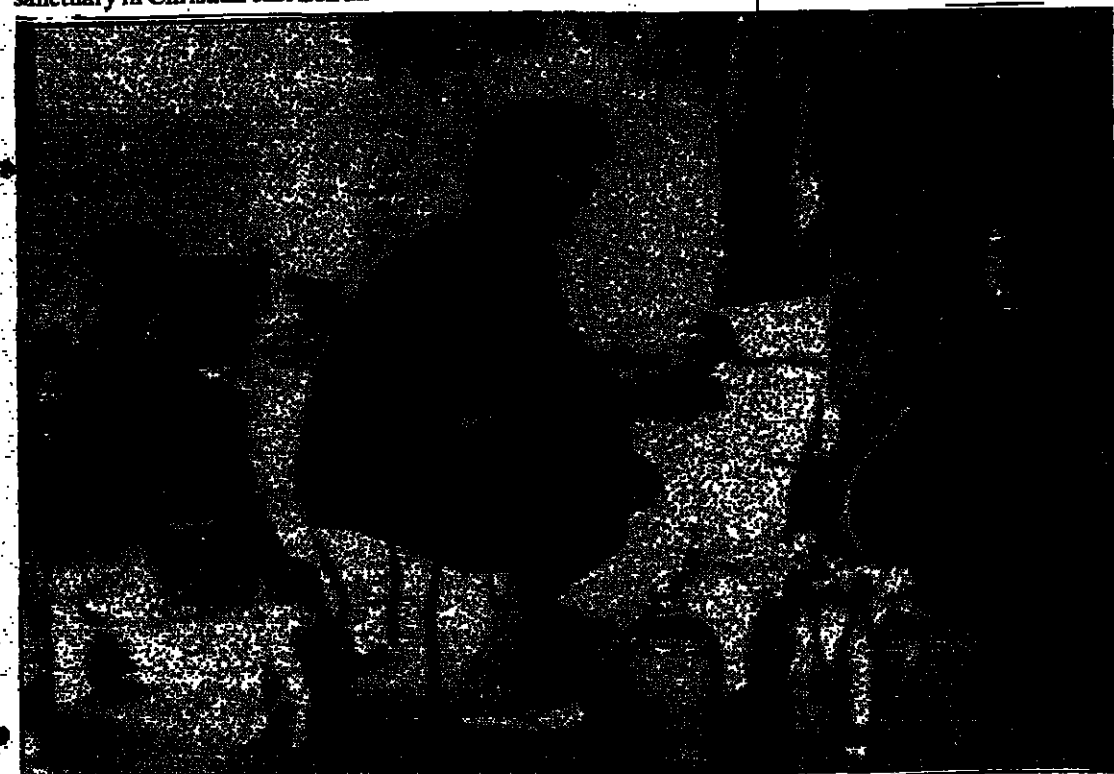
Meanwhile, displaced Lebanese Christians begin returning to their villages. "I knelt and kissed the floor three times when I returned to my house," said Christian Ousta Kizhayya, tears streaming down his cheeks.

The 56-year-old Maghdousheh villager is one of hundreds who fled in 1986 to escape fighting in Muslim-controlled areas only to be driven home again by inter-Christian battles in east Beirut.

The return of Christian refugees to this scenic hilltop village of vineyards and orange groves overlooking the Mediterranean 40 km (24 miles) south of Beirut is not an isolated example.

Christians are streaming back to abandoned homes outside the Christian enclave despite the ceasefire between General Michel Aoun's army and Samir Geagea's rival Lebanese Forces militia.

The villagers of Maghdousheh abandoned their homes and fields four years ago when fighting erupted between Aoun and Palestinian fighters in the nearby Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp. Most sought sanctuary in Christian east Beirut.



A Christian woman sits with her two small children in a makeshift house in the southern village of Maghdousheh in Lebanon and prepares rose water. (Reuter wirephoto)

After five years in Lebanon's black hole, Anderson's hopes rise

BEIRUT, March 11, (AP): Five years. Time enough for a world to change. Years enough for a newborn to sprout into adulthood. Nights enough for a man, caged, to sink into dark despair, and then sink deeper still.

Five years ago this Friday, on March 16, 1985, Associated Press correspondent Terry A. Anderson was shoved into the back seat of a Mercedes and driven off into the black hole of Beirut. He remains a hostage today, longest-held of eight American and 10 other Western hostages in Lebanon.

Anderson, now 42, last spoke to the world 16 months ago, in a videotape released by the Muslim extremists who hold him. In a gray track suit, clean-shaven, he looked stronger than in the past. But the spirit was bleak.

"As the end of my fourth year approaches," he said, "I find it difficult to keep my hopes and my courage high."

Now the end of his fifth year approaches.

Hopes so often crushed are rising again. Anderson's tireless sister, Peggy Say, recently returned from a Middle East journey with AP officials and spoke of a "feeling of hope." Rumours of secret talks are flying through Europe. The President of Iran, the nation believed to hold sway over the Lebanese kidnappers, says he feels the hostage crisis "is moving toward a solution."

Somewhere in the rubble of Lebanon, Anderson and the 17 others are imprisoned, apparently held in small rooms, chained, often blindfolded, deprived of sunlight, deprived of faith, lost in a

hopelessness that at one point drove Anderson to pound and bloody his head against a wall.

The meaning of five years of inhuman captivity, each year a near-eternity, is beyond imagining. But a simple measure of time can be taken:

On the day Anderson was kidnapped, Mikhail Gorbachev was in his first week of power in Moscow. Then-president Ronald Reagan had not yet met a Soviet leader. Marcos and Duvalier still ruled. Chernobyl still operated. The Challenger astronauts still drilled for their fateful flight.

While Anderson endured his pains, wars yielded to peace, enemies embraced as friends, history remade the world's landscape. While Anderson lay in chains, his

second daughter, Sulome, was born and grew into a lively 4-year-old, a girl deprived of a father's warmth.

The "senior" hostage is also the youngest hostage, and perhaps the best-known, among an American group that also includes Scottish-born, poetry-loving academic Thomas Sutherland; accountant and Muslim convert Joseph Cicippio; adventurous schoolmaster Frank Herbert Reed; sometime-writer Edward Tracy; journalism professor Alann Steen; business teacher — and diabetic — Robert Polhill; and math Professor Jon Turner.

Anderson the reporter, now locked up by Muslim militants in a makeshift dungeon, had once huddled with fearful Muslims in other basements, under Christian bombardment, there to tell their story to the world.

Israeli cabinet fails to vote on peace proposal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 11, (Agencies): A crucial meeting of Israel's policy-making inner cabinet ended today without reaching a decision on US proposals to enter first-ever talks with Palestinians.

Vice Premier Shimon Peres, leader of the Labour Party, stormed out of the meeting at the prime minister's office, telling reporters: "We finished without a decision. We finished without a vote."

He said Labour would meet tomorrow to decide whether to carry out a threat to end its 15-month-old partnership with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party.

In Tunis, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said today the Israeli government was trying to wriggle out of the peace process and urged greater efforts to halt the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Arafat spoke moments before the deeply divided cabinet ended a key meeting without reaching a decision.

Arafat, addressing nine ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement's committee on Palestine, denounced what he called the "foot-dragging and open manoeuvring undertaken by Israeli leaders to escape all peace initiatives."

He urged the ministers to join Arab countries in launching an offensive at the

United Nations to stop the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Arafat made the same appeal to a meeting of Arab League foreign Ministers in Tunis which has the peace talks and emigration at the top of its agenda.

Arab shops in the city closed today in a second day of protests over the deaths of two Jerusalem Palestinians in clashes with police early yesterday.

The rightist Likud, the dominant party in the unity government, maintains that to let occupied east Jerusalem's 150,000 Arabs vote is tantamount to forfeiting Israeli sovereignty.

Rabin, who has held Israel's coalition

together through past crises, insisted that Likud and Labour agreed Israel would permanently control all of occupied Jerusalem.

He said both parties would also agree to leave the Cairo talks if the Palestinians said they represented the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), branded by Israel as a terrorist group bent on destroying the Jewish state.

Likud fears that Washington, which talks with the PLO, and Labour would let occupied east Jerusalem Arabs vote in the elections and allow the PLO to brief Palestinian negotiators.

If agreement is not reached, a no-con-

fidence vote in parliament would be likely later in the week, probably Thursday, and elections could be called for later in the year. To prevent Labour from being in a transition government, Shamir may fire the Labour ministers.

Rabin, who represents the Hawkish wing of the Labour Party, proposed a compromise, saying the government should send a positive reply to Washington and then try to hammer out a joint Labour-Likud negotiating strategy.

But Transport Minister Moshe Kat-sav, a Likud member, rejected the idea, saying Labour-Likud agreement should precede an agreement to Washington.

Iran rift delays hostage release

CAIRO, March 11, (UPI): Widening differences among Tehran's ruling clergy have left Iranian policy in tatters, and the rift is delaying the release of Western hostages thought to be held in Lebanon, officials and observers believe.

Gulf Arab officials and political observers said they are now convinced that Iran's pragmatist President, Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, wants to find a way to free the 18 Western hostages, including eight US nationals, and normalise ties with the West.

But there are camps in both Iran and Lebanon that totally oppose Rafsanjani's policy and want to continue exporting the Iranian revolution around the Muslim world, they said.

Speculation about the fate of the hostages was rekindled when a Tehran newspaper close to Rafsanjani said 1990 would be their last year of captivity. It was the second editorial in an Iranian newspaper within a week saying that the hostages would be freed without preconditions.

But many observers believe Rafsanjani is not in a position to dictate policy to the pro-Iranian Shiite fundamentalist groups thought to be holding the hostages, even though it was Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution that inspired their creation and subsequent actions.

"Rafsanjani has always had enemies among the ruling clergy in Iran, but reports and statements we are seeing indicate the rift at the top is widening, and even affecting Rafsanjani's political allies," said one southern Gulf Arab official who recently visited Iran. The official said that his name and nationality must be used.

"Rafsanjani knows the (Iranian) economy will make or break the second decade of the Iranian revolution. So he wants to free the hostages, and normalise ties with the West, but without leaving himself open to attacks from radicals both at home and in Lebanon," he said.

Regional observers said opponents of Rafsanjani, such as former interior minister Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Mohtashami, visited Lebanon late last year after a policy row with the president, and were reported to have met with Lebanese Shiite radicals.

"We don't know the loyalties of the kidnappers," said one Western envoy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. "They may well be loyal to Iran, but the question now, after the death of (Ayatollah) Khomeini, is which faction in Iran are they loyal to?"

Saddam pardon to be in force for 2 months only

Iraq offers amnesty to all Kurds

ERBIL, Iraq, March 11, (Reuter): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein yesterday announced an amnesty for all Kurds in exile, including a rebel leader excluded from a previous offer.

Announcing the unconditional amnesty during a surprise visit to the Iraqi Kurdistan autonomous region, Saddam said it would be in force for two months from today.

Ahmed and Barzanji said the offer also included Massoud Barzanji, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, and the communists.

Ahmed said the amnesty covered some 20,000 Kurds still in Turkey after fleeing Iraq in 1988 and groups of Kurds, whom he did not specify, in Iran and other countries.

Saddam was visiting Erbil, the centre of Iraqi Kurdistan, on the eve of the 20th anniversary of its autonomy declaration.

An estimated 100,000 Kurds fled to Turkey from an army onslaught launched in northern Iraq after the Gulf war ceasefire of August 1988. Others took refuge in Iran.

Iraq denied it used chemical weapons against the Kurds despite what the United States called "compelling evidence" to the contrary.

Kurdish rebel groups recommended followers in Turkey not to accept last year's amnesty. But several thousand came back after facing difficulties in their refugee camps.

Subby Ali Khalaf, a senior local official of the ruling Baath Party, told reporters the amnesty offer did not mean the government was willing to reopen a dialogue with Talabani.

Ahmed said Kurdish delegations would be sent to Turkey and other countries to encourage Kurds to return.

Sudan's military junta has released 21 trade union officials from detention and said all political prisoners except those facing corruption charges would be freed soon.

The official Sudanese News Agency quoted Information Minister Ali Ishomou as saying political prisoners still in detention would be released within the next two days. He did not say how many they were.

General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, who seized power in a coup last June, told a Cairo newspaper last month his government was holding about 80 political prisoners.

American action against Jewish exodus urged

AMMAN, March 11, (Reuter): Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran urged the United States yesterday to take concrete action against Israeli plans to settle more Jewish immigrants in occupied Arab east Jerusalem.

He said US President George Bush should translate into deeds his statement a week ago opposing further Jewish settlements in occupied Arab east Jerusalem.

"If these US statements remain without any context then Israel will continue its aggression and hegemony," Badran told Petra News Agency after returning from a visit to Saudi Arabia. "I urge the American government to take action."

He said Israeli plans to begin construction of 3,000 homes for settlers today contradicted UN resolutions on the status of occupied Jerusalem.

Israel captured occupied east Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war then annexed it and declared it part of Israel's eternal capital.

Baha' Aldin Ahmed, chairman of Kurdistan's legislative council, and Jaafar Barzanji, executive council chairman, told a news conference the offer included Jalal Talabani, leader of the rebel Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Talabani was excluded from an amnesty declared a year ago because he co-operated with Iran during the 1980-88 Gulf war.



Nathan, shown in his hotel in Tunis after meeting with Arafat. (Reuter wirephoto)

Nathan may land in jail for meeting with Arafat

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 11, (AP): Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan could be put back in jail because of his meeting with PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Tunis last week, Israeli legal experts said today.

Nathan, who was freed Feb 9 after serving 122 days for violating a law against meeting PLO officials, described his discussion with Arafat in an interview today on Israeli radio.

The 63-year-old Nathan, speaking from Tunis where the PLO has its headquarters, said Arafat asked during the meeting Friday how Nathan felt about going back to jail.

"I said that it is worth my whole life to see today that you (Arafat) as a leader are speaking about peace," Nathan told Israeli radio.

Nathan's interview came shortly before Israel's cabinet failed to decide on a proposal for opening peace talks with Palestinians, partly because Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc rejects any step to allow even an indirect PLO role in peace talks.

Nathan has repeatedly called on Israel to hold peace talks with the PLO. He also has said he will fight against 1986 law outlawing meetings with PLO officials.

Legal experts, writing in several Israeli newspapers, said Attorney-General Yosef Harish was likely to order Nathan jailed again under the sentence given the peace activist on his conviction last October for meeting with Arafat in 1988.

Shin Bet agents indicted

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 11, (AP): The Jerusalem district court has indicted two agents of Israel's Shin Bet security service in the beating death of a Palestinian prisoner in a Gaza Strip jail, a Justice Ministry announcement said today.

The names of the two defendants and details of the case were banned from publication until an initial closed-door hearing was held, the announcement said, adding the defendants' lawyers agreed to what could be published about the case.

It is unusual for charges to be brought against Shin Bet agents, and the closed-door treatment of the case was in keeping with traditional secrecy about the agency which is responsible for Israel's internal security. The name of the agency's chief, for example, is an official secret.

The charge of manslaughter was brought in the death of Khaled Kamel Al Sheikh Ali, 27, who died last Dec 19.

Iranian officials have said more than 1 million of Iran's 55 million people abuse narcotics. But unofficial estimates put the number at twice that amount.

"All those hanged had also confessed to smuggling of arms and munition into the country and selling them to bandits and drug gangs," the Iranian news agency said.

Prior to execution the smugglers underwent medical examination, performed religious rites and met with their family members," it added.

Management and Computer Consultancy in Kuwait

Our consultancy has vacancies for experienced Business Management and Computer professionals to undertake the following projects:

- Information Strategy Planning
- System Preparation
- Depth Systems Analysis & Design
- Project Supervision

Successful candidates will have a minimum of 3 years' solid analysis and design experience on MIS background, with perfect spoken and written English, spoken Arabic and exposure to CASE tools will be an advantage.

For more information, please call 2440025 to arrange an interview. All applications will be considered on strict confidentiality.

SALE TENDER - MPG 14

Kuwait National Petroleum Company, Major Projects Group offers for sale by tender Scrap Material consisting of used electrical cable, empty cable spools and drums, miscellaneous steel remnants etc ...

Tender documents will be available at KNPC, Head Office (Tel.: 2420121) from 7:00 to 15:00 hours from Saturday to Wednesday for the sum of KD 10/- (Not refundable).

Viewing date: Saturday 24 March, 1990
Closing date: Monday 26th March, 1990 until 12:00 noon

Boost social programmes in region: Nasser

Special attention to illiteracy, unemployment

KUWAIT, March 11, (Kuna): Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed said that some Arab countries have failed to achieve a complete social care programme for their citizens, stressing that "we have to be aware that this failure is a negative aspect for development programmes in most Arab countries."

Speaking to a Kuwaiti daily in Cairo

before leaving the official said that development programmes have to be boosted in the entire Arab nation regardless of political or regional differences.

Challenges

A Kuwaiti Arabic daily quoted Sheikh Nasser as saying that social policies in the Arab world cannot be separated from the economic situation adding that the last

decade was a critical one for the entire Arab nation, which affected development and social care programmes.

Sheikh Nasser said that recent developments and changes in Eastern Europe, the planned European single market and the East European open market will definitely affect the economic situation in Arab countries therefore Arab countries cannot face these challenges individually but as a

whole Arab nation.

The social and labour minister said that Arab countries should centre their attention on eradication of illiteracy and unemployment.

Sheikh Nasser who returned home last night headed the Kuwaiti delegation to the meetings of the 18th conference for the Arab Labour Organisation held in Cairo last week.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stop influx call

KUWAIT, March 11, (Kuna): Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Khalid Ahmed Al Jassar has called on the Arab and Islamic world to work together for stopping "the unholly Soviet Jews influx" to occupied Palestine.

In an interview with a local daily Jassar also requested Arabs and Muslims and all "honest" people of the world to support the ongoing Palestinian uprising and force Israel to stop all oppressive measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

He said Kuwait always supports the Palestinian uprising at the official and public levels "because the Intifada is demanding a legitimate right that the Zionist entity wants to usurp."

Jassar believed Lebanon can only be salvaged by the Lebanese themselves if they can brush aside differences and feuds and listen to the voice of heart and mind.

Asked on the emergence of three Arab groupings, he supported the trend saying that Arab and Islamic countries should form such an economic group to face the world economic entity.

Foundation stone

KUWAIT, March 11, (Kuna): Public Works Minister Abdel Rahman Ibrahim Al Houti and Electricity and Water Minister Hamoud Abdalla Rquba yesterday laid the foundation stone for the new headquarters of their two ministries.

The 27.4 million dinar project is to be built on a 136,000 square metre plot, located in southern Surra, north west of Asafar Motorway intersection with the Sixth Ring Road.

The two look-alike three-storey buildings consist of private suites for the ministers, conference halls and other facilities.

Houti expressed pleasure at the launching of the project and said that during the coming five years, work on new sewage systems, Central Post Office and the headquarters of education and oil ministries would be completed.

Council meeting

KUWAIT, March 11, (Kuna): Supreme Housing Council Secretary Dr Ibrahim Majed Al Shaheen yesterday announced that the council will hold a meeting tomorrow to be chaired by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah.

Shaheen told Kuna that the council will discuss several issues topped by a report on determining of locations and area of residential plots in lands designed by the Public Authority for the fourth Five-Year Plan of 1990-1995.

Dentistry week

KUWAIT, March 11, (Kuna): Planning Minister and Acting Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadhi opened yesterday the 11th Dentistry Week organised by the Kuwaiti Dentists Society.

Awadhi delivered a statement affirming that the week falls in line with the initiatives of the society to publicise the best means of maintaining clean, healthy teeth.

Society Chairman Dr Ibrahim Mehailal said that the week targets elevating the public's awareness of teeth problems.

Kuwaiti poet

TUNIS, March 11, (Kuna): Tunisian President Zain Al Abidine Bin Ali received Kuwaiti poet Dr Suad Al Sabah who is visiting Tunisia to attend meetings of the general assembly of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights.

In a statement following the meeting, Dr Suad said her brief encounter with the Tunisian president tackled the achievements of the organisation and its methods of supporting human rights in the Arab world.

She also expressed admiration for establishment of democracy in Tunisia.

Czech envoy

KUWAIT, March 11, (Kuna): Undersecretary of Public Works Mohammad Abdul Hamid Al Sami today received at his office Czechoslovak Ambassador to Kuwait Tomas Strakos.

Sami and his guest exchanged views on ways of enhancing bilateral co-operation.



Holland award for Fraih

Ambassador of the Netherlands, H.E. Joseph Veling, presented the Holland Agricultural Export Award to Mohammed I. Al Fraih of Burgan Agri-Food Industries in a ceremony held recently.

The Agricultural Export Award is awarded by the Netherlands Minister of Agriculture to businessmen who, through their outstanding efforts, have made a long-term, significant contribution to the export and marketing of Dutch agricultural and horticultural products. The award, first instituted in 1986, has until now been presented twice within the Gulf area, both times to businessmen in Saudi Arabia.

The long-term, outstanding relations Mohammed Al Fraih has with Holland and Dutch companies fully justify his choice as recipient of the award. For over fifteen years he has done business with Dutch firms, importing and marketing a wide variety of products ranging from poultry-farms and greenhouses to hatching eggs, one-day chicks and flower seeds. He promoted the use of Dutch technology and expertise to assist in the development of agriculture in Kuwait.

The first and to this day largest poultry farm, as well as the big glasshouse complexes were set-up by Dutch companies, who also contributed new irrigation methods and their agricultural technology in general to the development of Kuwait.

Mohammed Al Fraih has thereby made himself known as a man with expert knowledge of the agricultural sector, who is, moreover, extremely pleasant to do business with.

By establishing a durable business-relationship with the Netherlands, Fraih has contributed towards the cementing of the bilateral relations between the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The Export Award was presented during a luncheon at the residence of Ambassador Veling, which was attended by a number of prominent Kuwaitis.

The presentation was attended by the Dutch Agricultural Attaché Herman Hilgeman, who is based in Riyadh.

Yemen merger

Islam and Marxism contrasted

MANAMA, March 11, (AP): North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh yesterday told a Kuwaiti newspaper that despite challenges "there is a strong Yemeni will and a massive popular backing" for union of North and South Yemen.

He was referring to merger plans, set for Nov 30, which have brought demands of Islam and Marxism face to face.

Leaders of the two countries appear undaunted however. North Yemen is a conservative Arab country of 9.2 million devout Muslims of whom an estimated 30 per cent could be considered fundamentalist.

South Yemen is the Arab world's only Marxist state. Saleh and South Yemeni strongman Ali Salem Al Beidh, the secretary-general of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party, have been meeting for three days amid hints that the two leaders were seeking ways of speeding up the unity process.

After two days of cloistered talks in the North Yemen resort of Taiz, the two leaders yesterday moved to South Yemen's capital, Aden, in what one newspaper editor called "a surprise political demonstration of support from the top for unity."

Fiery

The Islamic fundamentalists in North Yemen, commonly referred to as the "Religious Current," have come out in strong protest against the draft constitution of the unified state because it does not specify the Islamic religion as the "sole" source of legislation.

The draft unified constitution only refers to Islam being the

principal source for legislation. Another article says "it is not permissible to resort to inhuman means in implementing punishments and it is not permissible to enact laws that permit it."

The fundamentalists, Sheikh Abdel Meguid Al Zindani, have been clamouring for explanation as to whether this negates the Islamic shari'a law of cutting of hands of thieves.

Recorded tapes of fiery speeches by Zindani, are in wide circulation in North Yemen at present. Zindani is favoured by members of prominent Yemeni tribes.

This Islamic force in North Yemen contrasts sharply with policies in South Yemen which, once it gained independence from Britain in 1967, forged close links with the Soviet Union and adopted Marxism as a policy and a way of life.

Reaction

While South Yemen pays lip service to Islam, it has become a non-religious society. Aden women do not have to wear veils, there is no segregation of men and women, and the Islamic injunction that a man may have up to four wives is curtailed by a law which provides for a second wife only in case of sterility or terminal illness.

So, thousands of South Yemeni women took to the streets on Women's Day in Aden clamouring for guarantees that unity will not mean annulment of their civil status law.

The women's federation president Aida Ali Saeed said the unified constitution "must

clearly acknowledge equality between man and woman." She denounced "the conspiracies by forces of darkness and reaction that are enemies of the woman."

South Yemeni leaders, hard pressed by the trappings of a closed socialist economy, have recently followed the perestroika policy of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. They have opened the merger talks with North Yemen and received a number of Western visitors in recent months.

Wooded

The Saudis, and other countries like Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have wooded and pressed Aden toward the merger.

In face of the religious demands, the North Yemeni leader appealed recently to his people "the draft unified constitution is not sacrosanct... let us have unity first."

Recently Saleh was in Saudi Arabia for consultations with King Fahd and left with a strong statement of backing from the Saudi monarch for the unity process. Sources said this meant that the King will try to placate Zindani, who spends much of his time in Saudi Arabia.

Inferences that Zindani is backed by the Saudi government are categorically rejected both in Yemen and in Saudi Arabia.

"Without unity, the two regions of Yemen will become multiple regions," warned South Yemeni Prime Minister Yassine Saeed No'man in an interview this year. He referred to the strength of independent-minded tribes in both countries.

Unesco expedition begins July 16

KUWAIT, March 11, (Kuna): A group of 20 young people from five continents will be offered the opportunity to take part in an extraordinary expedition later this year which will see 100 motorcycle teams set out from Unesco headquarters on July 16 bound for Astrakhan, on the shores of the Caspian Sea, a Unesco press release said yesterday.

The 5,640-kilometre voyage, of which more than 1,000 kilometres will follow the ancient Silk Road across the Steppes, is being organised by the International Fund for the Development of Physical Education and Sport (Fideps) and the BMW foundation.

Awareness

The cultural discoveries in store for the expedition will further enhance athletic exploits. Meetings with young people and traditional games and sports matches have been organised in each of the major cities along the routes including Budapest, Odessa, Simferopol and Astrakhan.

The 20 young people chosen to take part will be

selected on the merit of an educational project that they will have submitted. Their expenses for the journey will be met by the French Insurance Group IRP/Auto and the BMW Foundation. They will also be provided with a BMW motorbike for the trip which will finish up Aug 4.

The voyage will also provide the occasion to increase awareness of the principles and values contained in Unesco's international charter of physical education and sport which is this domain, complements the universal declaration of human rights. This document will be distributed along the routes.

The caravan will also include technicians who will participate in exchanges on technology, design and marketing with specialists from the countries crossed. The expedition will also carry medical equipment and information on Aids, which will be distributed at Elista, on the second last stage of the voyage. In 1989 the Aids virus was accidentally transmitted to some 40 children in this Soviet city.

Functional overlapping hampering agriculture

THE chairman of the Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Authority Sheikh Ibrahim Duajj Al Sabah has said that the authority's ability to implement its different projects is still hampered by the existing functional overlapping with other ministries and government agencies.

The drawbacks still persist in this respect in the wake of the meetings held by HH the Amir with officials in charge of service sectors in the country in 1988.

He expressed hope that all concerned authorities would streamline existing duplications as continuity would restrict the development of the agricultural sector from productive and landscaping aspects.

In an open interview with representatives of the local press held in Wafrat Agriculture area, Sheikh Ibrahim said that the authority's next five-year plan contains a number of useful recommendations and proposals for the development of the agriculture sector in the country.

He pointed out that of these important proposals is the involvement of the private sector in the agricultural development activities, the provision of agricultural maintenance and protection, the supply of needed machines and manpower.

He said that the authority is currently in need of 50 veterinary doctors and 200 agricultural engineers in order to be able to achieve its aspirations as contained in the five-year plan. These relate to the establishment of a new station for agriculture experiment, a centre for artificial insemination, expansion of fish and aquaculture activities and contribute more actively and on a wider scale to the food security strategy, besides the expansion of tissue culture, establishment of cattle sheds and implementation of the Wafrat poultry raising project.

He called on the relevant government authorities to equate the allowances and remunerations offered to agricultural engineers with engineers in other specialisations.

He said that the authority had plans to re-shuffle its existing infrastructural set-up to be able to meet the requirements of the decade of the nineties, in response to the directives of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. This is intended to step up productivity in the different technical, professional and administrative sectors.

Kuwait is currently able to produce 46 per cent of the local consumer demand for animal products, and 45 per cent of the local demand for vegetables and is able to maintain a state of self-sufficiency in milk products, Sheikh Ibrahim said.

He added that the authority paid great attention to dairy industries in the country, and continually sought to develop and refine fresh milk products. The official further stressed the need for the local co-ops to accord greater attention to local agro-products and to give priority of purchase and marketing to these commodities.

Zayed donates \$5 million to Islamic fund

ABU DHABI, March 11, (AP): President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan yesterday donated five million dollars to the Islamic Solidarity Fund.

Sheikh Hamdan, the son of the United Arab Emirates leader, and assistant undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry, made the announcement in an opening address to the fund's board meeting.

Officials from 13 Islamic states were grouped at the meeting which is to consider means of facing a decline in donations. Support for the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and financing of projects in Islamic states are among other main topics on the agenda of the meeting.

The fund was set up by the 46-member organisation of Islamic Conference in 1974 to assist development projects in needy Islamic countries.

Industrial authority to be established soon

Ministers considering special law

THE assistant undersecretary for industrial affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ali Abdullah Bin Ali has said that the establishment of a public authority for industrialisation should be based on a clear-cut integrated national industrial strategy developed by the government with the help of all relevant industrial, and economic bodies concerned, including the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Planning Ministry, the Industrial Bank of the Kuwait and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He told a local daily that a decision would soon be issued outlining the general framework for study on the basis of which the proposed industrial strategy would be drawn up.

He expressed hope that the establishment of the Public Authority for Industrial Area would soon come into existence, especially since the relevant decision was currently under consideration by a ministerial committee passed to it by the Council of Ministers.

Competition

Ali said that a study was about to be completed containing a recommendation to increase customs protection for certain

national products, adding that the establishment of the proposed industrial authority would give rise to competition of great dimensions by the private sector as the authority would be able to gain access to ample information, not available to the private sector, which would lead to a rise of lopsided competition.

He pointed out that for this reason the proposed industrial authority should not focus on the institution of specific industries and yet supervise the working of the industrial sector, and this is the ministry's viewpoint.

He ascribed the reason for the deficiency in strategic industries in Kuwait, despite the availability of raw materials and needed requirements, to the absence of an integrated industrial strategy, adding that it was imperative to draw up such a vital strategy whereby to define industrial priorities.

He said that the proposed authority would, among other things, act as the sole agency responsible for the issuance of all licences needed, including those for the practice of import-export activities, the hiring of expat manpower and others, adding that a special law had been

prepared for this purpose and sent to the Council of Ministers for consideration.

A study is about to be completed recommending the increase of protection of certain national industries, and upon completion the study would be submitted to the Council of Ministers for consideration and endorsement, and the decision was expected to be taken within the coming three weeks, Ali said.

He further revealed current efforts at the Industrial Affairs Department to simplify public procedures, develop existing operation techniques and attract young graduates and specialists to meet the existing need for staff and expertise.

He said that following the computerisation of work at the department, the renewal of expired industrial licences would not take time anymore and that the issuance of new industrial licences had nothing to do with computers but depended mainly on the studies and related formalities.

The ministry would release a number of guides next month dealing with customs exemption, encouragement and protection of local products, Ali pointed out.



Oriental crafts exhibition

An exhibition of Pakistani oriental carpets, handmade furniture and gift items was opened at the SAS Hotel Tent Saturday. Examples of some of the best handicrafts from Pakistan are on show. The inaugural ceremony was attended by several ambassadors, senior Kuwaiti officials and businessmen. Picture shows the ambassadors of China, Indonesia, Tunisia and India admiring the carpets with other guests. (Photo By Javed Basra)

Labour export

Dhaka to set up contracting system

By Yakub Razaque
Arab Times staff

THE Bangladesh government is set to streamline procedures concerning recruitment of its workers abroad under a system that will ensure labour contracts are honoured by both Bangladeshi expatriate workers and their overseas employers, Bangladesh Minister of Labour and Manpower, Sirajul Hossain Khan, revealed during a recent visit to Bahrain.

According to the Bangladesh minister all employment agreements, No Objection Certificate and other related documents will have to be attested by authorised officials of Bangladesh embassies and diplomatic missions in the region. He said the Bangladesh government will make it mandatory for all clauses of labour contracts to be followed.

The Middle East in general and the Gulf in particular are key labour markets for Bangladeshi workers, the bulk of whom are employed in construction related fields. Income from these workers in these areas constitute in the form of remittance a vital source of foreign exchange earnings for Bangladesh's hard-pressed economy.

In recent years with the increase of Bangladeshi manpower to the region a host of problems and discrepancies have arisen related to employment contracts. Abuse of contracts by employers particularly related to poor and illiterate workers is increasingly becoming a common practice. On the other hand there have been growing number of cases of Bangladeshi workers entering host countries in the Gulf through the "Open Visa" or "Free Visa" racket. Often poor workers are duped into entering the country concerned after paying exorbitant amounts.

The Bangladeshi Embassy in Bahrain has been in the forefront in helping to regularise labour procedures and solve labour disputes of Bangladeshi workers in the island for quite some time now.

Khan was in Bahrain last week to attend a conference of Bangladeshi ambassadors in the GCC states and Iran and Iraq. The following steps were considered during the conference: (a) Proper scrutiny of all labour contracts including the identification of the employer or his agent, their bonafides and financial strength (b) Assessment of the possible problems and prevention at their origin (c) Inclusion of clauses to ensure minimum levels of wages, good working and living conditions, safety and security of labourers and (d) Measures to cut red tape.

New board for co-op union

THE general assembly of the Union of Co-operative Societies held its annual meeting to discuss the administrative and financial reports of the board and to elect a new board for the union.

The meeting was attended by 120 members of boards of the co-operative societies in Kuwait. Some members criticised the union for the increase in prices of commodities at the co-operative societies three times within a short period. They also called on the union to order the price committee of the union to publish its activities and display prices of commodities at the co-operatives to the public. They also suggested to allow directors

of co-operatives to take part in discussions of the prices committee.

Criticism

Some members criticised the union for its policies to delegate members to attend international or regional meetings and make visits out of Kuwait. They claimed that such things are continually reserved certain members. The meeting then approved the financial and administrative reports of the union. It also agreed on a proposal to allocate KD10,000 to take part in national and social occasions and activities. The members then elected a new board for the union.

Traditional Malaysian welcome for Nouri

KUALA LUMPUR, March 11, (Kuna): Kuwaiti Education Minister Dr Anwar Al Nouri and his "Malaysian" counterpart Anwar Ibrahim were accorded a traditional Malay welcome when they arrived in Seremban, 42 km from here today for the opening of the Negeri Sembilan State College (Kolej Negeri).

Several groups of students performed traditional dances and Silat (Malay art of self-defence). Kompang (traditional drum) players were also in attendance. Also present at the ceremony were the State Chief Minister Mohamed Isa and the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Malaysia, Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa.

Dr Anwar was also given the honour to address the college students and parents during the ceremony.

He spoke about Islamic education and assured the audience that Kuwait will continue to assist Malaysia in the field.

Dr Anwar said he accepted a proposal by the Malaysian education minister that both countries should share their education systems for the development and advancement of knowledge, especially in science and technology.

He added Kuwait would also continue providing places for Malaysian students studying Arabic.

Earlier, the Malaysian education minister who performed the opening ceremony, said Kuwait, with its advanced education system, especially in science should share it with Malaysia.

Dr Anwar with 14 other education ministers from West Asia, Africa, and Europe are expected to attend a closed-door dialogue with the Malaysian Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today.

The ministers will attend tomorrow the one-day colloquium on the future of education.

The ministers are here at the invitation of the Malaysian government after attending an international conference in Bangkok.

GCC petrochemical conference in Bahrain

Granada meeting to be reviewed

THE director general of the Gulf Industrial Petrochemical Company and chairman of the committee entrusted with organising the second conference for marketing GCC petrochemical products and chemical fertilisers Mustafa Al Satiyed Ali has said that the conference is scheduled to be held in Bahrain next Saturday and Sunday. He went on to add that the conference will constitute an important turning point in the petrochemical industry in the region, due to the nature of challenges and made of confrontation facing the Gulf petrochemical industry.

In a statement to GNA the official said that the conference will discuss the sum total of these challenges, particularly the marketing of Gulf petrochemical products in the European markets during the forthcoming stage of Unified Europe, 1992.

He added that the conference will review the outcome of the Granada meeting held in Spain lately which hosted a number of

Gulf industrialists and their European counterparts where discussion centered on possible channels of co-operation in the field of petrochemicals.

He stressed the significance of the conference which among other things would stress the need for uplifting the level of co-ordination among the users of petrochemical raw material in conversion industries, and users in the new industries. Ali outlined the methodology to co-ordinate the international export operations in the field of developing exports and probing the means to optimise the exploitation of existing factory capacity, in the GCC.



Narcotics meeting

Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah yesterday presided over the first meeting of the National Committee for Combating Narcotics (NCCN). Sheikh Salem told Kuna following the meeting that a temporary committee was formed to prepare the by-laws of the mother committee. He pointed out that the committee's next meeting will be held during the coming three months. On whether there is duplicity between NCCN and the drugs department at the Interior Ministry, Sheikh Salem answered that NCCN is a consultative body that helps the Interior Ministry and other institutions draw their general policies for fighting narcotics while the drug department is an enforcement body.

Adhere to transplant ethics, says Awadi

Conference opened

By Lina Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT has made great progress in the field of organ transplants since the last ten years and has since accelerated its development, Planning Minister and Acting Health Minister, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi said in a key-note address at the opening of the Second International Congress of the Middle East Society for Organ Transplants (Mesot) held yesterday.

Awadi who deputized for HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah also said that the Health Ministry is currently co-ordinating with other government bodies to increase public awareness to the humanitarian values inherent in donating their organs after death for the benefit of saving the life of a needy patient. However, Awadi commented "It is a matter of regret that the issue of donating organs after death is not adequately practised."

The official also warned against the practice of trading in human organs for commercial gain which is considered contrary to civil as well as religious laws.

He added that the country has passed several legislations based on Islamic teachings on organ transplants and called for adherence to the code of ethics in this respect.

Meanwhile, Assistant University Director and Dean of the School of Medicine, Abdul Latif Al Bader highlighted the history

of organ transplantation, which began with a simple kidney transplant back in 1954 at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.

Bader said that the phenomenon of organ transplants came into its own in Kuwait with the arrival of Dr George Abouna, a professor of surgery in 1978. Since then, some 510 kidney transplants have been performed with high rates of success.

He added that the first successful pancreas transplant in the Middle East was also performed in Kuwait.

On the research side, Bader indicated that the research team in Kuwait has been engaged in some fundamental work in preservation of organs and recently on the possible use of animal organs, and hoped that more organs, particularly livers, are obtained from cadavers available in the country.

He noted that the Health Ministry along with the Health Science Centre in Kuwait are fully supportive of expanding transplants so as to serve as many patients as possible.

Dr George Abouna, the chairman of the preparatory committee said since the establishment of the society in 1983, organ transplant techniques have witnessed tremendous developments and a large number of successful transplants have been performed.

Abouna (professor and chairman of department of organ transplants in Kuwait) regretted the lack of facilities in Middle East countries in this modern field, and added that the increase

of chronic kidney failure patients using dialysis entails increased financial burden and recurring family problems and less efficiency compared to kidney transplants.

He added that patients from the Middle East who need organ transplants sometimes die due to shortage of organs. Other patients have to surmount several other logistical problems, the official said.

Abouna predicted the continuation of the problem in Middle East countries if no solid efforts and co-ordination to support such transplant centres and necessary amendments in the social, cultural and legal aspects were rapidly introduced.

He added that the aim of the conference is to discuss the use of modern techniques in organ transplantation, provide open discussion on organ donation from cadavers in the Middle East countries, lay down the foundations of the Middle East Society of Organ Transplants. The conference also aims at reaching a consensus against illegal practices and trading of organ transplants which will worsen the situation in the Middle East and will help enhance organ business in poor Asian countries.

Abouna said that 200 research papers will be submitted by 33 countries during the 21 sessions of the conference. On Thursday March 15th, another important session will take place to discuss the social and religious side, the official said.

The conference which opened yesterday will continue until March 15.

More arrested in business visa scam

FURTHER details were published yesterday about the gang that was arrested recently on charges of trading in forged visit visas.

Reliable sources indicated that security authorities had arrested 17 persons in this connection who have been remanded to police custody for a period of 21 days to enable authorities to complete investigations. Sources added that the forgery ring comprises of three main accused. The first is an owner of an establishment who has been identified only by his initials as M.K.; the second, also an owner of an establishment has been identified as H.B. and the third is an Afghani mediator who was being assisted by a correspondent of a firm.

The gang was arrested on Feb 19th, 1990 when security personnel of the Criminal Investigation Department at the airport suspected the legality of some entry visas which were issued for business purposes and presented by three Afghani nationals. The CID's suspicions arose as the three did not appear to be businessmen. The three were promptly arrested.

Investigations have revealed that the mediator used to pay an amount of KD80 to the three main accused for obtaining a single business visas. When the man who was issued the visit visa arrived in Kuwait, the photograph was taken out of his passport and another photo of a person in Kuwait who was violating the law of residence and illegally living in Kuwait was substituted enabling him to leave the country.

The latter paid an amount of KD100 for this service. The person to whom the original visit visa was issued continued to live illegally in Kuwait — without a passport.

Sources added that the gang was able to undertake this venture as the authorities do not ask for a photograph or copies of passport of the person desiring to come to Kuwait for commercial purposes.

Sources further revealed that one of the defendants own 17 false firms and companies that do no business. As a result of heightened investigations and surveillance, seven persons were arrested when they tried to leave the country via the airport and five were arrested at the correspondent's office.

Impersonator arrested in Ahmadi

AHMADI Governorate security personnel have arrested a Kuwaiti citizen on charges of impersonating a security officer and assaulting police.

Complaints to the police station in Abu Halifa attested that a Kuwaiti posing as a secret service agent had assaulted a bus-driver and a student.

Police officers successfully apprehended the accused who admitted to the charges and has been referred to the authorities for investigation.

Legal Clinic

SHOULD you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, kindly send your questions to: Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taher, replies to readers' queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4647495.

I WORKED with a reputed company in Kuwait from June 1988 to August 1989 and they terminated my services with immediate effect according to article 55. I did not get my salary for August 1989 nor any of my benefits including my leave salary. I have transferred my residence permit to another sponsor, where I am now working. What are the termination benefits according to article 55. If they refuse to settle my account, whom should I contact.

K.K.J. ACTUALLY, you did not mention the reason for dismissal, and the termination letter does not mention it either. If you did not get the salary, you have the right to claim it. You can also claim the leave salary, which was not paid to you. Termination of service under article 55 does not withdraw these rights.

However, you don't have the right to get the salary for the 15 days notice period and end of contract benefits because you have been terminated under article 55.

To make the claim, you have to file a case through the labour office in the Social Affairs Ministry, which will try to settle the matter. If they fail, they'll forward the case to court. Such cases must be filed within one year of termination. After that period, you forfeit the right to make any claims.

I AM a Sri Lankan who came to Kuwait as a beautician on visa No. 18. I worked happily for six months. My sponsor's daughter always asked me to do her personal work and one day she asked me to make her shoes. Last night, she talked to me and after that day, she refused to have me in the salon. I was returned to the agent, who asked for my ticket but they refused to pay. Recently, I found a job and I asked my previous sponsor permission to leave Kuwait. He is asking me to pay

KD150 and if I don't pay, he has threatened to take me to the police saying I had run away. I have my ticket for Sri Lanka. Is there any way of getting my passport without paying KD150?

Selin. YOU have two alternatives: file a case against the employer through the Social Affairs Ministry asking for the air ticket, because they terminated your services. Or you can also file another case, through Shaom or Social Affairs to get your passport.

A passport is a personal document that you must get after the end of a contract between an employee and employer.

I CAME to Kuwait on March 26, 1988, on visa No. 18. It expires in March 1990. Now my sponsor has issued a release letter for transfer of visa. I work for a catering company. Under the present Kuwaiti law, is my residence transferable after two years to another sponsor of the same category (catering) or whether it is transferable to any other company?

Mrs Felicia. THE contract was for two years. As you have not completed three years employment with one sponsor, you don't have the right to transfer the residence. If you do succeed in transferring the residence, then you can work in any company which offers a job suitable to your profession.

I CAME to Kuwait in May 1987 and my residence is valid until May 1990. I am on No. 18 visa. Now I want to transfer my residence. Would you kindly advise me. Can I transfer my residence?

H. Kabe. NO, you can't transfer until May 1990. After completing three years, you can transfer your residence, provided your

employer gives a release and the new sponsor's visa application is accepted by the ministry. If you try now, they may accept the application or they may not; this depends on the discretion of the ministry. I suggest you go to the ministry and ask them about the matter.

AT THE start of this year, I moved to a new two-bedroom apartment and signed a new contract with the landlord. The contract states that the flat is for a family and commences from Jan 3. It, however, does not mention the validity of the contract. I will appreciate if you could tell me:

1. What is the duration of the rent contract?

2. Can the landlord increase the rent, say after two years?

3. Can the landlord terminate the contract and ask me to vacate the flat?

R. Joseph.

1. A rent contract is an unlimited contract for the tenant, who can stay in the apartment as long as he wants to stay. The owner has no right to ask the tenant to vacate the flat. However, if the tenant breaks the terms of the rent law, a landlord can use his right to ask the tenant to leave. Legally, it is considered as an extended contract for an unlimited period.

2. The landlord has the right to increase the rent after the lapse of five years of the last alteration. Both parties — tenant and landlord — have the right to agree on the rent. If they don't, they can take the matter to court to increase or decrease the rent, according to prevailing market rates at the time of dispute. Article 11 of the rent law stipulates that rent cannot be changed before five years.

3. No; the landlord can't terminate the contract unilaterally. But a tenant has the right to give notice at the time of vacating the apartment.

3-year stipulation remains: Yaseen

THE Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, at the present, has no intention to amend the decision No. 87 which prohibits workers to transfer their work permits from one sponsor to another prior to completing at least three years with the first sponsor.

Confirming this decision, Essa Yaseen, undersecretary at the ministry added that the decision had been taken after comprehensive studies to determine national aims and to maintain stability in the labour market by ending the confusion that arose by resorting to frequent and quick changes in sponsorships and to further curtail surplus manpower.

However, the official clarified that the ministry in exceptional cases does consider the application of those workers who have to transfer their sponsorship before the expiry of the three year period due to exceptional circumstances such as the closure of the firm or in cases where workers have been cheated into coming to Kuwait for firms that do not exist and who have traded in their residence permits.

Domestics are not subject to the labour law in the private sector No. 38/64 and residence permits for this sector are only issued by the Ministry of Interior, Yaseen said and added that there are about 180,000 domestics in Kuwait.

The authorities are aware of the adverse effects of this large segment of workers and is conducting comprehensive studies to redress this issue.

The official said that workers should renew their work permits at least one to two months prior to expiry so as to avoid any legal involvement or fines. However, he stressed that the sponsor has no legal right to prevent the worker from transferring his work permit to another sponsor after having completed the three-year mandatory period.

Amendments

He said that the ministry is still studying amendments of the labour law of the private sector No. 36/1964 and commented that this sector can positively contribute to the encouragement of Kuwaiti youths to take up employment in this sector.

He added that strict laws have been enacted to penalise those who break the traditions and social values of Kuwaiti society and disclosed that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and the Ministry of Interior have an integrated role in issuing residence permits for workers and denied that the ministry obliges private firms to bring workers of certain nationalities.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour issued 93,143 work permits — over 69,832 being issued for the first time last year, and cancelled the work permits of 30,128 workers who left the country. These figures indicate that manpower last year, increased by 39,724 workers.

A total of 180,374 work permits were renewed and 32,877 permits transferred, with 1,005 business visas issued and 2,497 permits for simple crafts. A total of 22,993 permits were transferred to work permits falling within the jurisdiction of the labour law. These work permits were issued to employees working as domestics, drivers, helpers in private houses.

Labour department inspectors visited 31,604 firms and installations employing a total of 350,199 workers last year and conducted various inspections. Safety involved 13,746 with a complement of 109,530 employees, 20 nurseries serving 1,009 children and employing 140 personnel were also inspected.

The ministry processed 6,171 complaints of workers against employers related to wages and contracts last year and processed 1,905 amicably, referred 3,064 to courts and 1,201 have been reserved for further settlement.

Further, a total of 446 residence permit complaints were settled amicably, 145 are being still studied, the official said.



Mrs Kurokawa (second left) and her guests at the tea ceremony.

A bit of ceremonial colour

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

SOME of the Japanese customs, among them the tea ceremony, have baffled much of the world. Why do the Japanese go through such a time-consuming and elaborate ritual the purpose of which is merely to have a cup of tea?

The Japanese answer with another question: Why do you take trouble to dress up and go to a restaurant for a candle lit dinner? Perhaps because we all need a little bit of refinement and ceremonial colour in our lives.

But as the guests of Japanese Ambassador's wife Mrs Ayako Kurokawa learnt Saturday the tea ceremony has its political history as well. In 16th century Japan when warlords deployed their armies of Samurai to capture new territories, merchants and farmers, fearing for their lives and wishing to escape the bloodshed, began gathering in small rooms to drink tea. They found that the more they concentrated on their bowl of tea the more they were able to regain their peace of mind. This was the beginning *cha-no-yu* or the Japanese tea ceremony. A demonstration of

the ritual — the skill is a must for every Japanese woman — was held to celebrate the Girl's Festival known in the Far Eastern country as Hina-Matsuri.

The tea ceremony is characterised by a perfect blend of rhythm, certain amount of tension and aesthetic accomplishment, explained Mrs E. Shirota on behalf of the Japanese embassy. The movements of those participating in the ceremony must be well calculated and no exaggeration is permissible. The ceremony is based on the premise that what is rational and functional, is also beautiful — something that the Europeans discovered only in the 20th century she said.

The ceremony, performed against the background of live Koto music, is supposed to promote the spirit of harmony, mutual respect and a feeling of gratitude.

Like tea drinking so the Girls' Festival with its focus on dolls has its roots in China. Once upon a time the Japanese used to let paper dolls drift off in the river in a symbolic spirit purification act. Today the occasion also known as Peach-blossom Festival stands for qualities of inner tranquility and subtlety and is supposed to bring the participants marital happiness.

Direct cash support to fishermen ends this year

ACCORDING to a senior official at the Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Authority the current year will see the end of direct cash support to fishermen. He said that the authority would soon implement a new sys-

tem under which the authority would bear 25 per cent of the cost of fishing gear such as nets.

The official said that the authority used to pay KD500 in cash to each fishing boat with a maximum of 10 boats, and that this

amount had been given to fewer boats over the years so that the existing beneficiaries did not exceed five boats.

He added that the new system would be operable during the construction of the marine port

project to be located in Bubyah and completed within the next three years. A temporary port is currently being built in Oshairej area with all needed marine and administrative facilities for fishermen, the official said.

Water contracts

KUWAIT, March 11, (Kuna): Electricity and Water Minister Hmoud Al Rqobah today concluded two contracts with two local companies in the field of upgrading and modernising water networks and preserving resources of underground water.

The first contract, valued at KD2.25 million, calls for replacing and modifying feeding networks of fresh and brackish waters at Al Sabah health area in Sulaibikhat within a total period of 18 months, effective upon receiving the site.

The second contract, with a total cost of KD1.3 million, calls for the establishment and maintenance of concrete walls and electricity rooms for the site of Al Sulaibiya wells for brackish water.

Houses distributed

KUWAIT, March 11, (Kuna): The Public Authority for Housing today distributed 148 residential plots in the third batch of the F zone of the Quraan project on citizens applying before first of April 1980.

The whole F zone of the project consists of 701 plots provided with all utilities including mosques, schools and public parks.

The Kuwaiti government, even before the establishment of the state of Kuwait, allocates residential plots for qualified citizens who are in need to construct houses for their families.

Each plot is presently worth KD4,000, much below the market price. Each citizen, when his plot is delivered, is granted KD54,000 for use in constructing his future house. The loan is interest free and is repayable in low installments.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

MAKE money your god, and it will plague you like the devil — Henry Fielding, English writer (1707-1754).

OPINION

Gen. Aoun has played his part

ULTIMATELY, General Aoun and all those presently dreaming in East Beirut will succumb to the logic and steadfastness of the historical demands.

Although the international community has put an end to tensions in several areas throughout the world, we find Lebanon in an even more aggrieved and tense situation at the start of the year — throwing into disarray the prediction of most analysts that this year would foretell the years of peace.

Previously, all Lebanese had stood by Gen. Aoun and supported those who called overtly and bravely to put an end to the occupation forces and the complete withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces and invading armies from Lebanon.

Solutions had been recommended for setting up the framework for easing these demands through Taif agreement which called for the complete withdrawal of invading forces from Lebanon in accordance with an Arab formula with the objective of restoring the national unity and healing rifts among the Arab countries who have continually paid a very heavy price for the wrong policies taken.

Hence, such being the case, under the Arab and international detente, logic should be predominant and the political situation in Lebanon should obviously be subject to this logic.

Suffice it to say that Gen. Aoun and his coterie in East Beirut cannot counter the world and challenge its dictates — otherwise he and his associates stand to lose their pragmatic logic.

Aoun has performed his role and it has been a commendable one and he should strive to preserve this pioneer performance. In every political occasion there are some roles to be played by some pioneers. It is to be understood that it is natural that this role will be terminated immediately upon realising the targeted objectives.

Giving a cursory look to political history of the world, we note that Winston Churchill who had achieved victory left office after the end of the war together with a large number of his aides.

The recent trends demonstrated by General Aoun testify to his real and genuine logic in dealing with the contemporary issues. He must be given every opportunity to prove that he leaves his country after having realised the necessary objectives which are mainly represented in saving the blood of the Lebanese and stopping the devastating war — a war which right from inception should never have been permitted.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Campaign against Libya
Eyebrows raised
in Arab world

WASHINGTON, (Kuna): Arab observers here received with raised eyebrows the renewed US campaign against Libya as manifested in the White House accusation that Tripoli was producing chemical weapons.

They were particularly surprised about the ferocity of the US reaction including Washington's hint that military action against Libya's Rabta plant was not to be ruled out.

The observers noted that Libya's offer to allow an international team of experts to inspect the pharmaceutical plant was only met with an added US determination to set the world community against Libya as to put political and economic pressures on that Arab country.

They also noted that the American campaign came at the height of international detente and at a time the Soviet Union was busy putting its house in order.

The cold war against Libya, which might very well turn into a hot one, has conjured memories of the tension between Washington and Tripoli four years ago and which culminated in former president Ronald Reagan sending warplanes to bombard Libya on allegations that Tripoli was sponsoring terrorism.

Fabricated
The charge was then fabricated to tarnish the image of Arabs at a time when the US was, as it still is, giving itself the right to exercise terrorism against peaceful nations while turning a blind eye on the systematic Israeli brutalities against Arabs in the occupied areas.

The political observers note that Libya, after having solved its dispute with neighbouring Chad and joined Arab Maghreb countries in efforts to settle flaring issues, is by no means less eager than the US to champion world peace and stability.

The Western anti-Arab media which did more than their share in implicating Libya in acts of violence in European capitals, could not care less about the need to verify the accusations against Libya which repeatedly openly distanced itself from those acts.

The observers believe that the hostile campaign against Libya is intended to keep the Arab world in general under constant fear so that it would fail to catch up with the developed world, not even allowing the setting up a pharmaceutical plant in Libya.

Libya will not be an isolated case as American bullying is likely to reach other Arab states at one time, according to the observers.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1507 — Cesare Borgia, Italian statesman and general, dies.
- 1799 — Austria declares war on France.
- 1848 — Revolution breaks out in Vienna with university demonstrations.
- 1849 — Sikhs surrender at Rawalpindi, India.
- 1854 — Britain and France conclude alliance with Turkey against Russia.
- 1867 — Napoleon III withdraws French support from Maximilian of Mexico.
- 1868 — Britain annexes Basutoland, South Africa.
- 1930 — Mahatma Gandhi opens civil disobedience campaign in India against British.
- 1966 — General Suharto is sworn in as acting president of Indonesia after president Sukarno is stripped of authority.
- 1968 — Independence is proclaimed for Indian ocean island of Mauritius, which had been under British rule.
- 1972 — Britain and China agree to exchange ambassadors, 22 years after London first recognized the Beijing government.
- 1975 — UN Security Council adopts resolution calling on Greek and Turkish Cypriots to resume negotiations for political settlement under personal auspices of secretary-general Kurt Waldheim.
- 1988 — South African government bans church-led opposition group headed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu as "threat to public safety."
- 1989 — Students and workers demanding overthrow of President Roh Tae-Woo battle riot police in Seoul, Korea.

East Germans ill-prepared for union

Anti-Stalinist passions over

EAST BERLIN, (Reuters): The passions of last year's anti-Stalinist revolution have given way to fear and despair among many East Germans ill-prepared for a united Germany.

Communists shorn of their ideals, workers haunted by unemployment and jaded revolutionaries are among thousands turning to psychiatrists and social workers.

Marriages crumble, friendships splinter and some are even driven to suicide.

"It's a national sickness," author and former senior Communist Party member Helga Koenigsdorf told Reuters. "It's beginning to dawn on some people that, ironically, the (Berlin) Wall gave them a form of security that will soon be lost."

Koenigsdorf, who left the party in January, has set up self-help groups for people shattered by the swift collapse of the system they served. Her first press announcement drew hundreds to a small East Berlin arts club.

"Some were quite desperate. People who really believed asked if their lives were completely in vain," she says. "I had a letter from one old man who said that if capitalism comes, he'll kill himself. People are afraid of the unknown."

Collapse

While the collapse of communist rule has spread joy in countries such as Hungary and Czechoslovakia, chaos seems to have struck peculiar fear in a culture dominated by a striving for security and order.

Some communists or former Stasi security police chose suicide early in the revolution, bounded by ideology or fearing that they would be charged for past corruption.

One regional party leader shot himself with a hunting gun and a top sports official waded into a lake with a heavy stone tied around himself.

The interim government moved quickly to take back revolvers routinely issued to senior communist officials, partly because they were concerned about possible suicides.

The Stalinist leadership, which had ruled East Germany since its foundation in 1949, fell in a national wave of protest last autumn. Millions swarmed into the streets with calls for reform that soon turned into demands for unification with West Germany.

Juergen Hahn, councillor on a confidential telephone help line, said the ebbing of that fever has left many of the "revolutionaries" feeling isolated and lost. They are now joining the former communists and Stasi members in counselling rooms.

"The exaltation and brotherhood of those days gave some people new hope and for others it eased feelings of loneliness," he told Reuters.

"That time of brotherhood is over," he added. "People are now thinking how best they can make money in West Berlin, get a secure job, look after themselves."

Some people feel the political movement that emerged from the stormy protests of last year has been "hijacked" by West German parties who have joined the campaigning for East Germany's first free election on March 18. They feel their fate is now being decided elsewhere.

"People protested in October because things were being decided over their heads. Yet again many people have that same feeling of helplessness," Hahn said.

For the first time in their lives, East-Germans face the threat of unemployment. Some economists predict outdated factories and overmanned bureaucracies will lay off 500,000 people by the end of the year and millions in the next five years.

Others fear they could lose their homes if capitalism drives rents up or that West Germans who owned property here before the communist takeover could reclaim it. The safety net of welfare benefits might be pulled away, drugs may flood in, crime may rise. The list of worries is endless.

Hahn cited the case of a 40-year-old woman working as an economist in a factory and struggling to bring up a 14-year-old daughter.

Free market

When her factory has to compete under a free market system with German unification she fears her job will go and that benefits off-red by the East German state will stop.

"She sat there in a state of paralysis. She felt helpless and was constantly thinking about suicide," he said.



"Another woman had worked with her husband in the kitchens of the security police. 'The Stasi had been like a mother to her, providing everything from home to food. Now it was being disbanded she wanted to get away, but she couldn't cope.'"

Many cite a comparison with losing a parent — albeit a strict parent — and a feeling of helplessness.

"The state, for us, was like a strict father. He demanded obedience. But you knew you could hurt him by disobeying. That was the power we had," author Koenigsdorf said.

"In the new Germany, we artists will be confronted with

a state that really doesn't care what we do or say. Indifference. That change will be difficult for some to handle but everyone must adapt."

Psychiatrist Michael Froese, who has registered a steep rise in consultations, said some people were now finding that the fall of the Berlin Wall last November could shatter dreams of family reunification.

"Relatives from East and West have cursed the wall for keeping them apart. Now they meet freely and sometimes find they really haven't got that much in common. It can be cruel."

Rebels presented with chance

ISLAMABAD, (Reuters): Afghan coup plotter Shah Nawaz Tanai has failed to topple President Najibullah but in tearing Afghanistan's military machine apart he has presented mujahedeen with a golden opportunity.

At a stroke this week the former defence minister cleaved the Afghan Army and Air Force in two, shattered Najibullah's claims of political unity and left Kabul much less well equipped to fight off the rebel challenge.

The big question now is whether the mujahedeen leadership, riven by factional fighting, can move fast enough to exploit the political and military confusion, political analysts say.

Both Pakistan and the United States — the main backers of the Afghan rebels — are working overtime to push the mujahedeen leadership in Peshawar to respond.

"If the mujahedeen play their cards right they might very well be able to talk some of the (government) garrisons into surrendering and going over," one senior Western diplomat said.

"It seems there is a very important turning point here... I think we could see a gradual collapse of his (Najibullah's) authority."

Khost, a besieged government garrison only 20 km (12 miles) from the Pakistani border, is seen by some as the best target although it has survived years

of intense military pressure.

Pakistan's top Foreign Ministry official, Tanvir Ahmad Khan, said on Thursday contacts had been established between the Khost garrison and mujahedeen forces on a possible forces surrender.

Reshuffled

"Basically the pack has been reshuffled. What we don't know is how the new hands will be dealt."

Analysts in Islamabad agree that Najibullah must emerge weakened by the week's events.

His carefully constructed image of unity is shattered and he is left with a military officer corps dominated by men who owe allegiance to Tanai's Khalqi wing of the ruling party.

Kabul's control of air force played a decisive role in the rebels' failure last year to take Jalalabad in the hope of precipitating a swift collapse of the Kabul government.

But a significant part of the Soviet-equipped air force defected to Tanai and how much remains both loyal and intact is uncertain.

Bagram, the main government airbase, was seized by the rebels and suffered heavy damage in counterattacks by an armoured division loyal to Najibullah.

How far Marxist hardliner Tanai and his rebel forces are working in concert with the mujahedeen is

questionable.

Initially only the fundamentalist Hezb-i-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar expressed outright support for Tanai's coup attempt. The Afghan government-in-exile in Peshawar dismissed it as a battle between factions of the ruling group in Kabul.

Humanely

Since then the Peshawar leaders have been careful to urge rebels to deal humanely with any government forces that surrender or defect.

Rebel massacres of prisoners following the final withdrawal of Soviet forces a year ago are widely blamed for frightening government garrisons into sticking with Najibullah.

Tanai flew by helicopter to meet some rebel leaders close to the Afghan border on Wednesday but his present whereabouts remain a mystery.

Pakistan, the main conduit for US arms supplies to the mujahedeen denies Tanai ever entered Pakistani territory, but diplomatic and official sources said he spent at least some time in the country and could still be there.

"He is portrayed as a hardline, uncompromising figure that has opposed Najibullah's reconciliation policy," the senior diplomat said. "But maybe he is nothing but an opportunist."

Art Buchwald

Teaching those who flout laws

IT'S been a tough time for people involved with Irangate. Gen. Richard Secord was sentenced to two years' probation for his role as one of the architects of the infamous arms plot.

Most people were shaken by the harsh sentence. The next one was even tougher. Albert Hakim, another conspirator, was given two years' probation and a fine of \$5,000. He was punished further by being told that the only money he could keep from the plot was the \$1.7 million he had deposited in Switzerland.

"Why the cruel and unusual punishment?" civil libertarians wanted to know.

Lesson

"We are trying to teach a lesson to everyone who flouts the law," the Lord High Chief Plea-Bargainer in the Justice Department informed me.

"When people see what Ollie North, Secord and Hakim got they will think twice about dithering with the law of the land."

"Be honest. Didn't you roll over and make a deal with Secord and Hakim so that they would testify against Poindexter? Isn't he the last link in the chain that leads straight to the Oval Office?"

"If we had made a deal with both of them, why would we insist on such harsh probation?

The Justice Department doesn't make deals with people who plead guilty to high crimes and misdemeanors.

"The rumour on the street is that you're always willing to make deals — no matter what the felon does. There is a story out that you will drop charges against Noriega if he turns state's evidence and testifies against Fidel Castro and Manuel Ortega."

Truth

"There is no truth to that at all," he assured me. "We do not plea-bargain with prisoners of war. Noriega will be given all his rights according to the Geneva Convention, where, incidentally, he has all his money. He will then receive the sentence he is entitled to, depending on his name, rank and serial number."

"I believe you," I said. "Suppose Noriega rattled on Imelda Marcos, would that get him tickets to the Super Bowl?"

"We only make deals if a person can lead us to other people. Now, if Noriega wanted to tell us what he knew about Leona Helmsley, we might start talking about putting him in a minimum-security lockup. But he's going to have to give us more than her old IRS 1040 returns. It'll be hard for Noriega to plea-bar-

gain with us when we've told the whole world that he's Mr Big."

Demands

"Suppose Noriega demands that every American secret be produced at his trial? Will you plea-bargain with him just to shut him up?"

"We will never be reasonable with anyone who puts the government in an embarrassing position. The Justice Department must prosecute those who resort to lawless behaviour, whether they take money from the Iranians, the Contras or a savings and loan bank in Albuquerque. If we're going to be tough on North, Secord and Hakim, then we have to be just as tough on Noriega. After all, we started a war to get him."

"Speaking of war," I said, "has it ever occurred to you that since Noriega is a prisoner of war, he is entitled to a ticker-tape parade?"

"He's not going to get one. We didn't give one to North or Secord or Hakim, and Poindexter won't get one either, even if he blows the whistle on Ronald Reagan."

"Why not?"

"Because ticker tapes could give people the wrong idea when it comes to violating the law," Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Letters to the editor

Democrat spirit

SIR: The ex-president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, who never agreed with democratic system of government finally bowed to the wishes of his people giving due respect to free universal franchise and to democracy. The whole world, except a few countries, still hang on to one-party system. Salute to Ortega for the way he accepted the victory of his opponent by meeting the president-elect as a good friend and as a man of humble servant of his nation. No doubt the motive behind his changed behaviour is love for his people and peace for the country.

Most world leaders when defeated at elections never take the defeat in good spirit, instead from the moment they are defeated they run to find ways and means of destroying the party that won the confidence of the masses or set the people against each other.

In Sri Lanka the loser even sought court's help to oust the winner. There was a time, until a few months back, we dreaded to open the second page of the Arab Times which normally carried Asian news, for we always had the reports on cold-blooded gruesome killings or disastrous actions of the terrorists in Sri Lanka. Now we sense that the country is gradually coming to a transition period for peace.

When the nation was suffering from economic breakdowns with strikes, death threats and unstable security, the opposition should have at that time helped the authorities to get out of the vicious situation prevailing, if they really loved the country and its people. These very people who watched the massacre of innocent people during the past few years, now talk of human rights violations.

Opposition leaders have even gone to the extent of pressing the donor countries to apply economic sanctions on the island, knowing well that the poor in the country would suffer the consequences when foreign aid is cut. They were the same people when in power, who banned students going abroad for higher studies and sent their sons and daughters to Oxford and Sorbonne universities. Perhaps they want once again to dawn an era when poor people had to go in long queues for even half a loaf of bread and two yards of cloth 'jumping fish' from China. That was also the method adopted by Elena Ceausescu for 40 years in Romania.

Sri Lanka was in a state of anarchy for the last 6 years and the bloody skirmishes left thousands dead on both pro- and anti-government sides. Now, those who are spending sleepless nights to sit on the throne, why not co-operate with the rulers to rebuild the torn country for the welfare of its people?

With the fall of the Berlin Wall and the peaceful revolution in Eastern and Central Europe, the world witnessed the fast approaching unity among nations. Take this side of changes as an example and try to help the nation to improve and form a stable economic position for their future generations.

Amala Edirisinghe

Safai

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"If we couldn't through this present time (Fall) reach a result, the second solution could be 'Fail' plus a comma or something totally new... I am definitely ready to discuss an amendment to the Taif Pact." — Aoun hinting he would be prepared to discuss the Arab-sponsored peace pact in 1991, Saudi Arabia.

"When you cannot change a phenomenon through political, external force, internal explosion or any other way the you must deal with it realistically." — Aoun on the situation in Lebanon.

"Everything that is happening in Germany now, can only take place if it is embedded in the whole European environment... German unity is conceivable only under European roof that includes Nato." — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

"The government will start on Saturday, Mar 10, preparing measures and regulations necessary to limit the implementation of the emergency law to state security matters." — Syrian news agency Sana on the limiting of emergency laws to cases related to state security.

"To achieve unity has become one of the greatest challenges facing Africa. We will go back to South Africa with an atomic bomb in our heart and blood, not for the purpose of destruction, but to bring about peace and equality in our country." — Nelson Mandela to an audience in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

"In the light of current changes in the world as a whole, we should build our relations with developing countries on other principles, on another foundation." These are exactly the principles that need to be defined." — Shevardnadze on his impending visit to Africa.

"The lessons of the past often evidence that economic engagement can work and that all sides can win. It is a mistake now, if our resolve falters just at the moment when we are about to realise the peace and prosperity that our fathers fought for, the consequences could be disastrous." — Genhardt on Western cooperation to Eastern Europe.

"Now that this treacherous conspiracy... has failed, it is brought to the notice of all of you that if you surrender as soon as possible to the nearest units of the armed forces, your life and property will be immune." — A statement from the armed forces high command broadcast by Radio Radio calling on all those involved in the putsch against President Najib to surrender.

"Let me identify seven sources of inaccuracy and imprudence in the president's (budget) approach — what would call the seven deadly sins of budgeting." — Rep. Lee Hamilton, Democrat-Indiana, on the US budget.

TRADE friction has become a major issue and as foreign minister I believe we must solve the problems in order to stabilise Japan-US relations." — Taro Nakayama, minister for foreign affairs, to reporters after a meeting with Japanese Prime minister Toshiki Kaifu.

"What the people of the Middle East — including Syria — need is not more bellicose rhetoric, but real statesmanship and commitment to the practical steps needed to bring about a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue leading to a comprehensive peace settlement."

"We have our laws, and no other country will shake our government's decision. Not a single foreign power can dictate to Indonesia. Write that in big letters." — Indonesian Armed Forces commander Gen. Try Sutrisno on foreign interference in communist execution in Indonesia.

"...It is to be hoped we shall reap more advantages from their trade as friends than ever we could derive from them as colonies." King George III as he combed himself over the British defeat by the American colonists in 1781.

"I think Boris played really well today. I was really happy. He's a totally different player from last year and I was played better on the baseline today." — Boris after a defeat at the hands of Becker in the Champions Cup tournament.

"That's what all our predictions show." But it really didn't tell yet. It's hard to tell what the sun will do (in the tail). Since most large comets have a large, spectacular tail." — An astronomy lecturer on the most spectacular in West since 1976.

Moves to protect monument

Pollution damages Sphinx

By Deborah Pugh

CAIRO, Egypt: After years of argument over the future of the pyramids — and what to do about damage to the Sphinx in particular, the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation (EAO) has embarked on a new renovation programme. This has coincided with the recent inauguration of a sewage draining scheme for the pyramids area, the first practical step to protect the 4,800-year-old Sphinx from rising sewage water.

The magnificent limestone figure, on the outskirts of Cairo and said to depict the Pharaoh Chephren, has been deteriorating ever since a protective covering of sand was removed from its 240-foot high body in the 1920s. Its exposure took place just as rapid industrial, agricultural and tourism development began in Egypt. Each sector has added to the physical pressures on Egypt's heritage of Pharaonic, Roman, Christian and Islamic monuments.

The sewage draining scheme is aimed at cleaning up the squatter settlement at Nazlet Essinnan, which has mushroomed over the last decade in the shadow of the pyramids, drawn by the dollars of the thousands of tourists who arrive daily in their huge tour buses. Waste water from the village is absorbed by the porous limestone from which the Sphinx is carved and eventually crumbles the rock.

Apart from the rising water table and the polluting effect of the tour buses, the settlement's sewage and fires generate "chemical pollutants three times greater than the limit permitted in archaeological areas", says Dr Fekri Hassan, an archaeologist heading the panel of experts studying the area's problems.

Hassan has the vision of the pyramids terrain as a "sanctuary". But his vision is bitterly opposed by the commercial interests it would curb. Much of the squatter settlement would be removed, including trashy shops selling "authentic" Pharaonic souvenirs. The huge tour buses belching fumes would be banned from the immediate vicinity and replaced with an electric cart shuttle service.

The plan has generated much controversy but the Minister of Culture, Farouk Hosni, who is responsible for Egypt's antiquities, appears set to back it.

Specialists recognise that it is not enough to protect only the immediate environment of the Sphinx: air pollution in Cairo is so intense that a wide-ranging programme is required. The government is already committed to limit pollution by installing filters on the three state cement factories located only a few miles from the Giza plateau on which the Sphinx crouches. These factories spew out a staggering 2,000 tonnes of cement dust daily.

But no action has been taken to reduce the car pollution plaguing the health of 12 million Cairenes as well as scouring the surfaces of the city's historic buildings.

Critical

The high-sulphur petrol used by the city's one million cars emit sulphuric and nitric emissions which attack the surface of the Sphinx and other monuments, producing a thin crust, says Dr El Goresy, an Egyptian scientist. "With the first sand storm, these thin layers are sand-blasted and a fresh surface becomes exposed."

This constant removal of the surface has led to a loss of detail of the Sphinx's features

which will soon be impossible to restore. Work will begin soon on bonding the cracks which give rise to serious concern, especially since part of a shoulder fell off two years ago, prompting the dismissal of the then chairman of the EAO.

Its new head, Professor Tewfik, told journalists in Cairo recently that work was going ahead on the Sphinx. He said the situation was critical and that renovations had started with the aim of restoring the monument to its 1962 condition. Unesco and the Getty Conservation Institute are providing help.

Tewfik's urgency in proceeding with the restoration of the Sphinx, which is still suffering from former hasty interventions, is in sharp contrast with the World Bank's difficulty in getting EAO to respond over the restoration of four Pharaonic tombs suffering the effects of Egypt's outstanding success in encouraging tourists to visit historic sites.

At the end of last year, despite four extensions of the deadline for a restoration loan, the EAO lost over US \$5 million from the bank (to have been repaid over 40 years at 0.25% interest) earmarked for works to protect these exquisite and delicate tombs.

Tewfik had dismissed the elegant prototype proposed by the Swedes, for the protection of the murals of the Tomb of Nakhth, as being too "like a boutique". The EAO failed, however, to come up with an alternative plan during the decade in which the credit was available.

Tourism is currently Egypt's number two foreign currency earner, generating over US\$2 billion in 1989. Having heavily backed Egypt's tourist industry, the World Bank is nervously alert to the fact that an Egypt with decayed antiquities will attract few tourists (Panos).



Practical steps are being taken to protect the Sphinx.

After surviving for 4,800 years, one of the world's oldest monuments, the Sphinx, is under assault from the advance of civilisation — threatened by rising human sewage, smoke and car exhausts. Now Egypt has a programme to save the monuments.

Wall-to-wall luxury for Hollywood pets

IT could only happen in crazy, zany, dollar-daft Hollywood. They are custom building "quality homes for the discriminating dog".

Two young brothers with film star looks have set up a firm called The Canine Club House of Beverly Hills to provide wall-to-wall luxury for some of the world's luckiest dogs.

Greg and David Siegel supply a range of super kennels at super prices that include a Victorian Mansion, a Spanish hacienda and a Dodge City saloon.

Little extras include wall panelling, carpets or tiled floors and framed pictures of doggie stars, like Lassie, on the walls.

Already movie town celebrities and their dogs are taking more than a passing interest in the plush doghouses. Steven Spielberg is mulling over the prospect of a matching Cape Cod kennel with his beach house.

It would cost \$860 to fix the Spielberg King Charles spaniel up with a aristocratic home fit for a Hollywood pet.

Larry Gelhart, a studio executive who worked on M.A.S.H., has already spent that amount on an English Tudor Mansion for Zappa the Labrador and Angel the English sheepdog.

The house is a duplex, so that each dog has his own apartment, with a staircase for the upstairs resident.

Greg, aged 22, explained: "Larry's wife, Pat, had awnings installed to match the house. And she ordered screens and plexiglass for the windows. The dogs seem to like living there."

"There is a redwood patio for sunbathing and the dogs have separate entrances so that they don't bother one another. We can convert the English Tudor to the Cape Cod by taking off the 'tudor' wooden strips."

Then Greg, who has gone into the doghouse business fulltime while brother David, aged 24, studies law, told me the plush details of the other kennels.

He said: "The Dodge City Saloon retails at £730. It's a real old Western place with bar-room doors and a redwood board walk. I've designed an overhang, so that there's some shade in which the dog can lie."

"There's a drinking trough inside... but it's an extra. The saloon is a one-dog dwelling. We also have a £460 country barn with a built-in hay loft. This is our biggest house, at 12 square feet, and can accommodate three large dogs."

"The barn has a pulley with a hook, but this is just for decoration. Then there is the Swiss chalet... a beautiful home for one medium-sized dog. It costs \$330."

Greg went on proudly: "our most expensive model is the Victorian mansion at £3,350. This stands eight feet high and has three different styles of shingles."

"The outside walls are covered in redwood, and the mansion has eight windows. Two dogs live in it but, if we add a loft with railings, the house can accommodate three or four."

"Our Spanish hacienda has a stucco exterior and Spanish clay tiles. The house, complete with bell-tower, costs £400. It just has room for one dog."

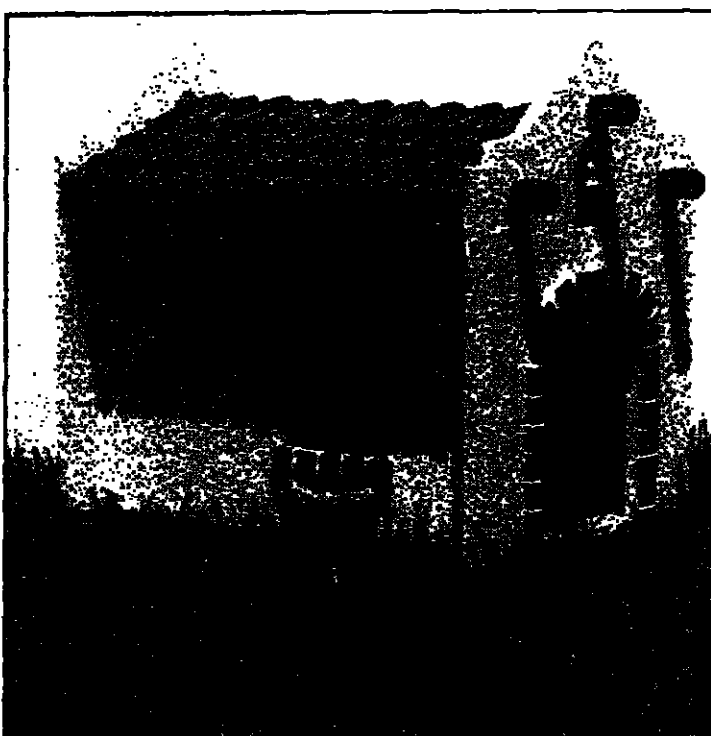
And now, for the people who don't have movie-star cash to spend, the brothers have built up a mail order business of kennel plans at £7 each.

Greg added: "One woman wrote and asked me to scale down a plan of our Spanish hacienda so that she could build a house in which her tortoise could hibernate. The whole thing should cost \$65 at the most."

A mere drop in the ocean of movieland money, which the brothers Siegel hope to tape with their pet scheme.



Two basset hounds Molly and Jane mooch around the Dodge City Saloon — the luxury kennel has bar-room doors, a redwood boardwalk and an overhang to protect the canines from the sun.



A Spanish hacienda for one... complete with bell tower.



English Tudor Mansion kennel. Each dog has its own apartment with a staircase for the upstairs resident.

Conquering 'Low Peak' of tropical Himalayas

MOUNT KINABALU, Malaysia, (Reuter): "It's time," the guide mutters to a dozen men and women huddled together at three in the morning in a tropical rainforest.

With torches clutched in gloved hands, they file into the chilly darkness.

In this unlikely setting begins the tough final ascent of Mount Kinabalu — the highest peak between the Himalayas and New Zealand.

The climb up the 4,101-metre (13,455-foot) "Tropical Everest", would be a mere stroll for the conquerors of the Himalayan peak, but it is a two-day penance for the uninitiated.

Rising from the steamy jungles of Malaysia's Sabah state on Borneo Island, South-East Asia's highest mountain draws thousands of climbers each year.

Often unprepared physically, they come not just to conquer the summit but to see the rich flora and fauna of a beautiful and untouched corner of Sabah, formerly British North Borneo.

Until just over a century ago no one had ventured up Akin Nabalu, the tribal name of the mountain meaning 'home of the departed spirits', for fear calamity would befall them for disturbing the sacred resting place of the dead.

A young English army officer named Hugh Low took the risk when he tried to climb the mountain in 1851 with a local tribal chief. He didn't quite make it, but to prove how high he had reached he left a bottle containing a note near the summit before returning to base.

The summit was named Low Peak after him, and eventually conquered in 1888 by zoologist John Whitehead.

It is along roughly the same trail taken by Low that about 15,000 climbers trudge each year. Most of the route is a footpath of tree branches laid over rough steps cut into the mountain's face.

The first day of the ascent begins at the 1,800-metre (6,000-foot) mark as a brisk stroll after breakfast through red and yellow rhododendrons and purple Kinabalu balsams.

Most climbers spend the night at a government resthouse at the 3,300-metre (11,000-foot) mark. Well above the clouds, trees here are stunted because of the poor soil and strong winds.

Called Panar Laban — "the place of sacrifice" — the Dusun tribespeople who act as guides sacrifice a cockerel there each year to appease the spirits.

At two the next morning, bleary-eyed climbers are roused to prepare for the exhausting final ascent.

The steps and vegetation give way to a barren rock face where climbers, panting in the thin air, sometimes have to haul themselves up with ropes laid over the slope.

Moonlight bathes the eerie landscape of the crest of the mountain, which was formed less than a million years ago when a granite massif was forced upwards through the Earth's crust.

But the weary climber has no time to contemplate the strange rock forms — with names such as Ugly Sisters and Donkey's Ears — nor the furrows in the rock carved by glacial flows in the ice age over 10,000 years ago.

"Hurry up or you will miss the sunrise", the guide urges.

The climber finally collapses on a frozen pile of rocks at the summit for a spectacular view of the orange sun rising over a carpet of clouds.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: Although at first I thought it was a simple backache, the results of many examinations and X-rays have led my doctors to the diagnosis that cancer of the prostate has now spread to my bones. I don't want to give up hope, and my doctor is offering me several options for treatment, including the removal of my testicles. I need some counsel and advice, which I hope you will provide me.

ANSWER: Your doctor is certainly on the right path, and I will try to provide a bit of information that may help you with your decision.

Prostate cancer, unfortunately, is a common disease. The American Cancer Society estimates 103,000 cases would be diagnosed in 1989. The symptoms of this cancer are much like those of the benign disease where the prostate gland simply enlarges or hypertrophies. They include weak or interrupted flow of urine, inability to urinate or start urination, blood in the urine, painful urination and pain in the lower back, pelvis or upper thighs.

Treatment depends upon the stage of the disease, and when the tumor is limited to the prostate itself, radical surgical removal of the

prostate, the seminal vesicles and part of the bladder may be the treatment of choice. Radiation therapy is an alternative. However, once the cancer has spread beyond the prostate, the goal of the treatment is to control the disease rather than cure it.

Since the progress of the disease appears to be related to the presence of male hormones, surgical castration removing the male glands, or the use of a synthetic female hormone, diethylstilbestrol (DES) have been recommended to reduce testosterone (male hormone) levels.

Just recently, however, a new treatment has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration called Zoladex. Manufactured by ICI Pharmas, it's an injectable hormone that acts on the pituitary/gonad system and reduces the production of testosterone to levels that result in a medical castration. It's administered by your physician in a single injection each month, and can result in reduction of tumor size, and improvement in urological symptoms and bone pain. It's said to have fewer side effects than other therapies. Each treatment costs about \$400, but since it's administered only by

FDA HAS APPROVED NEW TREATMENT FOR PROSTATE CANCER

physicians, it should be reimbursed by most medical insurance plans.

Across my desk: The January 1990 issue of "Medical Times" contains an article by Drs R.L. Buckley and R.M. Hostetler of the Department of Community and Family Medicine at Mercer University School of Medicine on the important subject of hypothermia. Hypothermia is a serious and sometimes fatal condition in which the body core temperature drops to 35 degrees Centigrade or less.

The authors suggest that dressing warmly, using several layers of loose clothing to trap warm air, and a dense outer layer of windproof clothing may help avoid the condition. Wet clothing should be changed as soon as possible. Insulated clothing of down or synthetic materials is recommended. Hands and feet act as radiators up body to the environment, so use mittens (which are preferred) or gloves, and one or two pair of warm thick socks to protect your feet.

Since you may lose up to one half your body heat through the top of your head, hats are a must when braving the low temperatures of winter. Here again, is another case where prevention is the best medicine of all.

Tourists on fashion-hunting spree

Japanese women flock to New York

By Keiji Urakami

NEW YORK, (UPI): Tamao Okada, a 24-year-old tourist from the small northern Japanese city of Koriyama, pushed her way through the crowds in the Chanel boutique on a sale day recently, doing her best to keep up with intrepid Manhattan bargain hunters.

She was among 12 Japanese travellers who participated in a half-day fashion-hunting tour, part of a new travel package created by JTB, the largest travel agency in Japan.

Accompanied by a Japanese-speaking tour guide, the group, mostly young women, wasted no time in combing boutiques and jewellery shops clustered around Manhattan's Fifth and Madison Avenues, from Tiffany, Mario Valentino and Fortunoff, to Gucci and Cartier.

Okada and hundreds of thousands of other Japanese flocking to New York every year represent one of the hottest target markets for those hoping to tap the

purses of affluent foreign travellers. "The entire fashion district along Fifth Avenue has become a supermarket for young Japanese women," Matsuko Suematsu, deputy director of the Japan National Tourist Organisation's New York office said.

"They are earning a reputation as the world's most relentless and acquisitive shoppers."

Japanese women like Okada — four years out of college and a clerk at her home town Trust Bank — are most eagerly courted consumer group in New York. Single working women in their 20s, who are considered to have the highest levels of both savings and disposable income in Japan, set New York merchants salivating.

"Most of the Japanese that I take care of are budgeting more for shopping here than for all other travel expenses combined," said Hiroko Taniyama, the tour guide for the fashion hunting tour.

"The women especially do intensive

shopping research before leaving Japan through fashion catalogues and magazines. By the time they reach New York, many of them have already decided on what items to buy," she added.

At Mario Valentino, 30 per cent of its sales come from Japanese customers, the retailer said. Japanese-derived sales account for about 40 per cent at Wempe Jewellery, and they account for around 50 per cent at the legendary Tiffany's.

"The Japanese are by far the largest group of visitors to this shop compared with other non-American groups," said Otto Haengel, president of H. Stern's New York store.

Sales to Japanese account for little more than 10 per cent of the store's revenues compared with one per cent for next largest foreign group, he noted.

"Most of our American customers are those just looking, said Toshi Morisaki, a Japanese sales clerk at Wempe's Fifth Avenue store, who was recently lured away

from Tournau's Madison Avenue store. "But the Japanese, especially the women, step inside the store for the sole purpose of buying something."

"Thanks to a buying spree by Japanese travellers, I am the No. 1 seller of the Rolex watches in New York," Morisaki said.

According to the latest statistics compiled by the New York Convention and Visitors Bureau, 439,000 Japanese journeyed to New York in 1988, up 18 per cent from the previous year. The figure accounts for about 10 per cent of the total foreign visitors to the city.

Commerce Department figures show in 1988 Japanese travellers to the United States spent \$670 on average for souvenir and other shopping, the highest among foreign groups. The second highest was \$242 spent by West Germans.

The strong yen against the dollar is often cited as a major factor behind the Japanese enthusiasm for travelling abroad, especially the United States.

VARIETY

Italian recipes with low calories

EASTON, Pennsylvania, (UPI) Cookbook author Joanne D'Agostino wore out two garbage disposals but never her family's patience.

In testing the recipes that fill the pages of her *Italian Cooking for a Healthy Heart*, (Eagle Publishing, 187 pp., \$17.95), D'Agostino found husband Frank and teenage daughter Erica to be willing if not always enthusiastic guinea pigs.

The recipes that didn't pass familial muster — and which gave those garbage disposals their terminal workouts — could fill a book of their own, she said.

"In most cases, my husband would never say something was bad," D'Agostino said in a recent interview. "Instead, he'd say, 'it's OK, but please don't make it anymore.' That was his way of telling me — ugh — it's awful."

"My daughter, on the other hand, was always frank and honest. She's probably my best critic."

D'Agostino said there was once a time her family, like most lovers of Italian cooking, thought they could never survive without their olive oil and parmesan cheese and bread crumbs. But when Frank, an Easton gastroenterologist, was diagnosed as having coronary artery disease in 1986, survival suddenly took on frighteningly new implications.

Angioplasty cleared Frank's clogged arteries, but his condition left the D'Agostinos puzzled and frustrated. For 20 years, they had followed what they considered a low-fat, low-cholesterol diet, exercised regularly and led generally healthy lives.

Frank was released from the hospital and placed on a bland diet in an effort to bring his cholesterol level down.

"But I knew if we were going to make it work, it had to be foods we liked to eat," D'Agostino said. "We couldn't live on broiled flounder the rest of our lives."

Her solution: take the recipes for the zesty Italian dishes her family loved and strip out not just cholesterol and saturated fats but as much of the total fat as possible.

It worked. After just a month of eating what D'Agostino describes as her "lower-than-low-fat" cooking, Frank reduced his serum cholesterol level from 290 to 191. His weight dropped 8 pounds (3.6 kg).

As word of her success spread among Frank's colleagues in the medical community, D'Agostino started receiving requests for recipes. She finally decided to collect them in a book.

She said *"Italian Cooking for a Healthy Heart"* is the first low-fat, low-cholesterol Italian cookbook published in the United States.

"It's not a prescribed diet. It's a method of cooking, and you can adapt this method of cooking to any food," D'Agostino said.

The first step, she said, was finding low-cholesterol and low-fat or nonfat substitutes for standard ingredients such as eggs, butter and oil. D'Agostino spent six months combing grocery store shelves, reading product labels for fat and cholesterol content, and making lists of acceptable ingredients.

All of her entrees are prepared with poultry or fish. She substitutes nonfat or low-fat dairy products for whole milk products and, when cheese is called for, makes her own from yogurt or does "creative things" with dry-curd cottage cheese.

If a recipe requires sautéing, D'Agostino uses wine, fruit juice or less frequently, defeated chicken broth. She noted she has not used a drop of oil of any type since 1986, "and that's saying a lot for an Italian."

Although olive oil has been touted recently as beneficial for reducing cholesterol, D'Agostino still classifies it as empty calories. She said the same benefits from olive oil's monounsaturated fat can be derived from the natural fats in the foods she cooks.

She said daily fat intake should be restricted to less than 30 per cent, and preferably 20 per cent, of total calories. The average person probably should not have more than 50 grams of fat daily, she said.

"You can't always strip out all the fat, but there are alternatives. There are ways to lessen the fat. You can modify every recipe to make it better, to make it healthier," she said.

Her cookbook contains 140 recipes, covering everything from baked Ziti Ragù to strawberry-and-cheese-filled meringues. Each recipe lists the calories and the fat and cholesterol content per serving.



Independent filmmaker Mike Jittlov in *The Wizard of Speed and Time*

SETI research

Scientists expect alien calls

By Robert C. Cowen

Aliens on other worlds who want to contact Earth will soon have a new "number" to call.

The Planetary Society is shipping two sophisticated radio receivers to Argentina's Institute for Radioastronomy. When they come on line Oct 12 (Columbus Day), they will give a big boost to the "Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence" (SETI).

Almost all the SETI research has concentrated on the Northern hemisphere. Now the institute's Raul Colom will lead an effort to scan the southern sky.

No one knows whether there are any life forms — let alone intelligent life forms — elsewhere. Moreover, even if our galaxy is well populated with intelligent beings, no one knows if they fill the cosmos with messages we can detect.

But we'll never find out if we don't listen. This is the challenge that inspired many of the Planetary Society's 125,000 members in 70 countries to contribute \$150,000 to fund what is the most extensive SETI program currently

under way. The society calls it META for "Megachannel Extraterrestrial Assay." It's "megachannel" because the receivers listen on 8,400,000 very narrow radio frequency channels at once.

META I — the Northern hemisphere program — was dedicated in September 1985. It followed a less sophisticated search started in 1983 using a receiver that scanned 131,000 channels.

This Northern hemisphere search, led by Harvard University professor Paul Horowitz, uses an obsolete 84-foot diameter radio telescope at the Harvard-Smithsonian Oak Ridge Observatory west of Boston. The META II receivers, built by Argentine engineers Juan Carlos Olalde and Eduardo Hurrel at the Oak Ridge site, will connect to one of two 98-foot diameter radio telescopes at the Argentine institute.

There have been a number of less extensive searches over the past few decades in several countries. The most ambitious programme yet launched is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) \$100-million, 10-year SETI. This will use specially designed

receivers on existing radio telescope for an all-sky survey over a wide frequency range (1,200 to 10,000 MHz), plus spot checks at selected frequencies up to 25,000 MHz.

The NASA search will be some 300 times more sensitive than previous efforts — including META — and will take five years to complete. It covers something like 10,000 times more frequency "space" than previous SETI efforts. These have favoured certain so-called "magic" frequencies such as the 1,400 to 1,700 MHz band associated with interstellar hydrogen. The META search centres on the 1,420 MHz hydrogen "magic" frequency. This is an obvious natural radio emission range where SETI scientists think aliens might broadcast if they want to attract the attention of others who might be scanning these frequencies as part of routine astronomical research.

The NASA receivers have been developed and are under test. The Northern hemisphere phase of the five-year search is due to start on Columbus Day, 1992 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Italian navigator's arrival in the New World.

The Wizard of Speed and Time

Special effects bonanza

By Simon L. Garfinkel

BOSTON, (CSM) Clad in green robes, Mike Jittlov races at 500 mph through the Northern California hills, across an inlet of the Pacific Ocean, and horizontally along the wall of a downtown Hollywood building. He moves so fast that when he ships on a banana peel, he flies into orbit.

Better known to some as *The Wizard of Speed and Time*, Jittlov is a struggling independent filmmaker in Los Angeles. In recent years his animation shorts have wowed audiences — from colleges and film festivals to IBM business meetings. This summer marked the debut of his first feature-length special effects movie, released as a video in January.

The Wizard of Speed and Time tells the story of an independent filmmaker, played by Jittlov, who is recruited by a Hollywood director to make a special-effects tour de force for an upcoming television special.

The catch is that the TV special is just a few weeks away, though Jittlov complains that he needs months to do the job right. Since he is fronting money for the project and selling it back to the studio, everything has to be done on a shoestring budget. As an added twist, the evil producer has made a side bet with the director that Jittlov will never finish and the producer sets out to sabotage Jittlov's efforts.

Charm

"It's fresh and it's charming," says George Mansour, co-director of the Boston Film Festival. The film has "innocence and charm, and that is so unusual in movies these days," he says.

The reason may be that Jittlov is a very unusual filmmaker — one who acts, directs, does his own special effects, and demands total control over his works. It is that recipe, say some, that has all but cut him off from Hollywood's mainstream filmmakers.

Jittlov got his start at the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1969. In *Speed*, one of his student projects, he filmed a running man with a slowed-down camera, creating the illusion that the man was running very fast. Jittlov's projects won awards.

"Mike is one of the best people who has gone through the animation workshop at UCLA, one of the very best," says Dan McLaughlin, Jittlov's mentor and a professor in the department of film and television at UCLA.

After graduation, Jittlov animated several short films and commercials, but he became increasingly discouraged with the film industry. "Every film kept getting less and less creative. Normally in Hollywood, people want you to do what you did before, but do it with half the money and half the time," he recalls in a telephone interview.

Technique

Finally, in 1977, he embarked on his own project of making six short films, each to showcase a different style of animation. In one short called *Animate*, Jittlov animated models snipped from fashion magazines using a technique partly pioneered by McLaughlin called kineastasis.

"I show the film... to my classes two to three times a year, and it is always one of the best received and appreciated films," says McLaughlin.

Another Jittlov short, also called *Wizard*, has been shown at many IBM business meetings. Meeting organisers see it as a "little film to relax the tension of the group," says Jittlov. "On the surface, *Wizard* is content-free, but people like to watch it."

But only on the surface. At the heart of all his movies, Jittlov says, is a tribute to the creative spirit, a desire to reach beyond your limits and "follow your dreams."

Interest generated by the shorts brought Jittlov funding for a full-length movie he had written. Filming began in 1983.

The Wizard of Speed and Time was supposed to parody Hollywood, but in many ways the movie was prophetic of itself. Jittlov put his life savings into a production, he says. Soon he found himself on a kamikaze filming schedule with neither time nor money to do the job right, in his mind. "Every night, I would sit down, rewrite the script, build the props, do the location, and sleep about three to four hours," he recalls — just like the fictional "Mike Jittlov" in the movie.

Soon the film was late and over budget, says Richard Kaye, Jittlov's business partner. "He had never done a feature before, and just wasn't about to deliver on time."

Five years later, after refunding it twice, Kaye released the movie to the distributor. Jittlov, bitter about the experience, calls the film "a work print."

Test

"Most of the effects are test effects," he says, adding that eight minutes of the film should be cut, and the music re-scored. "I consider the film like a crippled little child. I can still heal it." Doing so will take \$100,000 and several months of work, though.

In terms of not being finished, it's just a question of degree," Kaye responds. "We couldn't get them done in time for delivery contracts." Kaye maintains that in only one place can the viewer tell that an effect is clearly missing.

The newly released video of the film is a "corrected" version, in that it has the eight-minute cut that Jittlov wanted. To him, it's still not a "final print."

Jittlov's problems are almost as unique as his films: "I can't think of another filmmaker doing low-budget films with special effects," says John Hartl, a film critic for *The Seattle Times*. Even though Jittlov films many of the effects in the garage, the effects still cost a lot.

Although *Wizard* flopped in Seattle, a successful three-week run in Boston allowed it to open in several other New England towns. Other openings were planned for Austin, Texas, and Milwaukee and Madison, Wis. "The film probably will not lose money," says Kaye. "I don't know if it will show a huge profit, but it will at least break even."

McLaughlin, who ranks Jittlov's success as the loyalty and number of his supporters. Three years ago there was one-night screening of a work print of *Wizard*. It sold out.

"The line stretched around the theatre a couple of times," says McLaughlin. "You can't get that kind of response with big names on the screen, you can't but it..."

Good old Burt goes for pot-belly laughs

Fans of Burt Reynolds are in for a shock. Greying, pot-bellied and wrinkled — he is unrecognisable. Can this be the same Burt Reynolds who was the number one box office draw for five straight years?

Fortunately, the new image is only for his latest film, in which he plays an ageing burglar. Burt said: "I'm sure everyone who saw us filming in the streets thinks I've completely fallen apart."

He had to look ten years older for the part and suffered two-and-a-half hours of make-up and appliances before each day's shooting.

Burt, 53, recalled: "I would look worse and worse by the minute. The first thing they did was give me sagging eye-lids. Then they gave me a neck even a turkey wouldn't want. It took me a week to get over the depression."

He joked: "At this point in my life I expected to be spending hours in the make-up chair in order to look better, not worse!"

The film, *Breaking In*, is directed by Scottish moviemaker Bill Forsyth, who was highly acclaimed for *Gregory's Girl* and *Local Hero*.

It was Forsyth who came up with the idea of having Reynolds play, for him, a completely new kind of character.

Burt, who is married to actress, Loni Anderson, said: "After reading the script I told Bill I thought it was wonderful, but there was no part for me. The character, Ernie, is more than a decade older than I am."

"Bill looked me straight in the eye and said in a very disarming manner, 'Well, I want you and I don't have time for you to grow old.'"

Adventure

Ernie, the character Burt plays in the film, is an ageing pro who breaks into safes for a living. The other main character is Mike, a quirky kid who breaks into houses for kicks.

The two meet when they happen to break into the same house at the same time and an unusual partnership is born.

They embark on a series of adventures as the old profes-



Burt Reynolds as Ernie, the ageing safecracker in *Breaking In*

sional attempts to pass on an incredible body of knowledge to his young apprentice. The fact that the two "bad guys" are more or less incompatible is the basis for a host of laughs in this off-beat comedy.

For the part of young Mike, Forsyth considered most of the young actors in Hollywood. Young Guns star Casey Siemaszko finally won the role. Forsyth said: "In the middle of a poolside meeting with Gasey, I had to leave for a moment. When I returned, he had climbed a tree. It was pure Mike. He had the part, then and there."

Burt Reynolds may be depressed about ageing for the cameras. But he was more than delighted at the prospect of working with

director Forsyth. He said: "I'm working with one of the finest film makers in our business."

"Both as a fan of his films and as an actor with the good fortune to have worked in one of them, I know that just when you're certain Bill is going to turn left, he veers to the right."

He added: "From day one, I knew Bill Forsyth would never make a film about cute criminals who do secret good deeds and live happily ever after. 'With Forsyth, you expect the unexpected. He did not disappoint.'"

The comedy is currently doing big business in America. Even though Burt, who recently adopted a baby boy, he is playing down his sexy image. But his fans will not be disappointed.

Computer-aided cataract imaging

DR. N.A. PHELPS BROWN, a Harley Street eye surgeon, using a new computerised image analysis system which he has developed with a computer company to record eye damage in a patient's cataract. The system is currently in use at the Clinical Cataract Research Unit, Oxford, and enables him to view live images of the eye on a monitor screen, shown in background, then freeze and analyse the frame he wants.

The whole process takes only minutes, a fraction of the time involved in the traditional mechanism of system of scanning densitometry, in which the eye is photographed then the density of its image measured on the film negative. Because the captured image goes straight to the computer without the intermediate film stage, there is less room for inaccuracy to creep in as a result for example of sub-standard film or indifferent developing.

The system uses a camera containing a charge coupled device (a microchip honeycombed with light sensitive cells) to capture an image of the lens which is then thrown into a video monitor screen. The signals also run through a computer containing a special intercepting circuit board known as a framestore. When the doctor has got the image he wants on the monitor, a button is pressed and the computer grabs the next "frame" of the video signal.

The image is then effectively broken down into an array of pixel points, the kind of small building blocks of light which are used to build up computer graphics. In this case, each image is made up of 250,000 pixels (a grid of 512 pixels wide by 512 deep) each with its own brightness which is measured on a scale from 0 (black) to 255 (white).

Now that the computer contains a digital map of the lens it can tell the operator the severity of the cataract. The doctor usually takes two views of the lens, one from the side and a head on view. The image can be stored on an optical disk. The researchers can now do repeat imaging at chosen intervals in conditions which are virtually identical. This way they can measure the progress of the disease over time, or where drugs are administered — their effectiveness. This will allow comparisons with other patients in wider studies.

This system is being used initially as a research tool in clinical trials for cataract-inhibiting drugs which, if they prove effective, could radically alter cataract treatment. At present, surgery is the only option for cataract patients. If the drugs succeed, ophthalmologists could start practising preventative medicine for cataracts which account for more than 5 million new cases of blindness worldwide a year.



A poisonous way to eternal youth

LEMAT, Vietnam, (Reuters): "It makes you hungry for sex, said Xu Yen, handing over a chipped China tea cup of dark brown liquor as he squatted on a reed mat in his front room."

Behind him on a shelf, the stripped bodies of nine snakes, including deadly cobras and kraits, lay coiled, quite dead, in a 20-litre (4.4 gallon) bottle of wine made from sticky rice.

The bitter and intoxicating brew, made with closely-guarded secrets culled from Chinese invaders and passed down over 300 years in this village near Hanoi, is not just an aphrodisiac.

Xu Yen has a shock of robust-looking grey hair, walks and talks vigorously and enjoys a glowing complexion. He is 70 years old but looks at least 10 years younger.

"Each of the snakes is good for something. The little krait is good for your spinal nerves, the cobra cures rheumatism and paralysis," he said.

He slips out into a shed in the yard and sticks his arms into a wooden box, pulling out a six-foot (two-metre) long cobra that spits and writhes while he explains how to kill and cure it.

"My four sons travel into the hills about 100 km (60 miles) away to the west to find the snakes, travelling on a motor-bike or sometimes on the bus,"

he said. "They have to go further and further to find them. They pull them out of the trees or dig them out of mouse holes and bring them home."

Some are taken to hotels in Hanoi, 15 km (nine miles) away over the Red River. They are spread over several courses for tourists who will drink the blood warm and eat the meat spiced.

The majority find their way into the flagons of Xu Yen and dozens of others who carry on the tradition in this muddy, ancient village.

"I kill them by cutting them in a spot close to the heart. The blood gushes out. Then we clean them in boiling water. We cut them with a sharp knife, right along."

"I throw away the innards and use 90 per cent alcohol to clean them and a towel or some soft paper to dry the carcass," he said. The snake bodies, heads and tongues included, are coiled inside the bottle with 35-40 per cent alcohol and left for at least 90 days.

"The longer the better, but we are a bit impatient," laughed Xu Yen.

His 11-year-old grandson Ai, which means "love," is already an experienced catcher and proves it by going and playing

with a krait in the yard. "I have been bitten many times," said Xu Yen. He added there was no danger, except maybe from the extremely venomous little krait, as the villagers have their own antidotes from local herbs.

"Most people considered snakes their enemy," he said. "But for me snakes are very kind."

They can certainly be profitable.

Snake meat sells in the market for about 42,000 dong per kg (\$4.50 per pound). Xu Yen's 20-litre bottle of "Ruou Bo" (health liquor) fetches 400,000 dong (\$95) — more than twice the average monthly salary in Vietnam.

Xu Yen and the people of his village are by no means wealthy, spending much on the arduous task of catching the increasingly elusive snakes and losing much to middlemen.

"There is a saying in Vietnam — when a man is old he seeks a place in a tomb, when a snake is old he changes his skin," the old man said, and giggled.

His glowing complexion and vitality seemed to show that, when it came to longevity, may be the snake-catchers of Le Mat have the last laugh.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Gulf NRIs to organise seminar in Delhi

NRI Investors Forum, Kuwait will host the third prestigious Gulf NRI seminar during 4th to 6th July, 1990 at Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi.

Abhay Mehta, the official spokesman and chairman of the seminar organising committee, informed that preparations are in full swing and a special team created for organising the seminar, has been working very hard to make it a great success.

This will be the first time when the Gulf NRIs will conduct a seminar in India. It is being organised with active support from NRI Economic Forums at Dubai, Bahrain and seminar groups in other Gulf countries. Earlier to this, two highly successful seminars have been organised at Bahrain and Dubai by the respective local forums with the extensive backing from other Gulf NRIs.

Leading Indian government institutions such as State Bank of India and India Investment Centre are extending support for these efforts.

"Visions of a Shared Future with NRIs" is the theme caption selected by the Forum's executive committee, out of more than 35 captions proposed for the seminar, by the NRIs from Kuwait.

Mehta also stated that the seminar will deal with a number of important subjects, particularly economic, investment, education & resettlement issues, which link NRIs with India. The focus will be to identify the areas where joint efforts between the Indian government and NRIs, need to be directed in future to enhance the close links between NRIs and India.

The seminar will be conducted in five technical sessions. The main four sessions will include taxation, Fera & RBI regulations, bank and portfolio investments, project & industrial investments and general resettlement, education, rife and other NRI issues.

In addition, a special session will be held on NRIs' contribution in India's Foreign Trade. A large number of senior Indian government officials, banking, industry and investment experts; besides a number of NRIs from the Gulf and other parts of the world are expected to attend.

The seminar will present an excellent opportunity to the NRIs, in particular from the Gulf, to meet a large number of fellow NRIs and resident Indians, as well as participate in the valuable discussions on the subjects closely connected to them.

NRIs, who are interested to get more details about the seminar, should contact NRI Investors Forum c/o Indian Embassy, Kuwait.

Daewoo wins \$37 million contract

DAEWOO Corporation of Korea has been awarded a \$37 million contract for road construction in Botswana.

The Ministry of Works and Communications project consists of three road sections totalling 343 kilometres. A 38-kilometre section will link the towns of Shorobe and Maun, a 201 kilometre section will be built between Maun and Gweta, and there will be a 103 kilometre Gweta-Nata section. The project should take 67 months to complete.

Daewoo recently completed \$16 million road project in the African country, a 216 kilometre road linking Serowe to Orapa. A dedication ceremony will be held tomorrow, March 10.

Daewoo corporation is the trading and construction arm for the Daewoo Group. The company received a total of about \$1.5 billion of domestic and international construction orders in 1989.

Opel signs joint venture

LEIPZIG, East Germany, March 11, (AP): General Motors' West German arm, Adam Opel AG, signed an agreement today to co-produce passenger cars in East Germany with the Automobilwerk Eisenach Company, the second automotive joint venture between companies of both Germanys.

Under the agreement, both partners said they hope to produce 150,000 Opel cars yearly at the East German company's plant in Eisenach near the West German border.

Opel, the main European subsidiary of the giant US multinational, makes a wide range of passenger and commercial vehicles for the European market.

Bid to avoid double taxation

Kuwait, Belgium sign pact

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT and Belgium have signed an agreement to avoid double taxation as a first step in a plan aimed at reinvigorating the subdued economic exchange between the two countries.

Negotiations that will lead to another agreement, on protection of investments, to be signed before the end of the year, are to start shortly, Belgian Minister of Foreign Trade Robert Urbain said yesterday.

The two sides have agreed to form a joint economic commission, combine Kuwaiti financing with Belgian expertise on projects in Arab and African countries and resume talks on establishing a direct airline link between Kuwait and Brussels, he told a news conference.

Urbain said the accompanying trade delegation, headed by Belgian Crown Prince Albert, is seeking to step up industrial, financial and scientific links with Kuwaiti partners.

The agreement on double taxation, signed by Urbain and Kuwait's Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi Saturday, will mainly benefit Kuwaiti investors as the Belgians have no projects in Kuwait and as foreigners can not invest on the already limited market.

Kuwait's investments in Belgium are tied to a paper factory, real estate and a network of service stations. They could expand to other areas if contacts now being made by Belgian businessmen representing sectors such as banking, general contracting, textiles and pharmaceuticals develop into joint ventures.

The Benelux countries that group Holland, Luxembourg and Belgium, as the fourth economic power in the world after the US, Japan and West Germany, can offer investment opportunities for Kuwaitis who are seeking new outlets for their surplus revenues.

Urbain described the trade between Benelux states and Kuwait as modest but stressed there was scope for growth as Belgium, whose imports are almost equal to its exports, mainly takes an export market. He put Benelux exports to



Belgian Crown Prince Albert (second right) addresses a news conference. He is flanked by the Foreign Trade Minister Robert Urbain and Belgian ambassador to Kuwait (right)



Some of those who attended the conference.

Kuwait at KD18 million in 1988 and said the three countries imported KD4 million worth of Kuwaiti products.

Traditionally Belgian businessmen, content to do business with neighbouring countries, have shied away from venturing far away from home. But Urbain said that they were encouraged by the response from Kuwaitis.

In a move to further encourage them the Ministry of Foreign Trade may help organise a Belgian week in Kuwait.

The Governor of Kuwait's Central Bank Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Saoud Al Sabah yesterday received at his office Crown Prince Albert.

During the meeting, trade and financial relations and means of

boosting them between the two countries have been discussed. The delegation also paid a visit to the chairman of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Aziz Hamad Al Saquer.

Sheikh Ali for Hungary

Move to explore downstream market

KUWAIT, March 11, (Reuters): Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khafifa starts a visit to Hungary tomorrow to seek a share in its downstream oil market and investment opportunities, officials said. He will be the first senior official from a major Opec state to visit Eastern Europe since pro-democracy governments swept to power and loosened communist economic controls.

Sheikh Ali is expected to discuss investment in refining and marketing operations during his four-day trip. Experts say Kuwait wants to increase its output of refined products to secure higher profits. It currently sells about 40 percent of its 1.9 million barrel per day production as refined products, from three domestic refineries and two in the Netherlands and Denmark.

Kuwait, one of the world's largest investors, also owns more than 5,000 European petrol stations. The minister will travel by car to Vienna to attend an Opec meeting on Friday aimed at bridging differences between the organisation's 13 members.

With an estimated 92 billion barrels in oil reserves, Kuwait is interested in long-term investments. Officials here are also exploring the huge downstream market of Japan and other Far Eastern states.

Two senior Polish officials visited Kuwait last week to seek investment in their ailing economy. They said Kuwait had showed interest in acquiring stakes in two refineries in Gdansk and Plock with a total annual output of 15 million tonnes.

Kuwaiti experts have visited several East European states in recent weeks to explore their markets, which have lost much of their subsidised Soviet oil supplies. Moscow has turned part of its crude onto the open market to get much-needed hard currency.

Kuwait is also interested in pumping fresh funds

into decaying Eastern European industries. Poland has offered it a stake in its shipyards.

Meanwhile, Kuwait is set to approve a multi-billion dollar petrochemicals complex as part of plans to boost exports of refined products, sources close to Sheikh Ali said today.

The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), chaired by Sheikh Ali, proposed the eight-plant petrochemicals complex in August 1989. Experts said it would cost more than \$2 billion.

KPC officials are confident that Sheikh Ali, who has placed his weight behind the project, will win government approval within weeks.

They said the project, likely to be opened to international bidding, would create several other associated industries and reduce the country's dependence on crude exports.

"I think there is initial acceptance...it is a matter of time," said another official close to Sheikh Ali.

The minister made a presentation at the Supreme Planning Council on Saturday but the session broke after an hour due to other appointments by its head, HH Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, officials said.

Further debates are due later this month. If the council grants endorsement, experts believe production could start by 1994/1995.

Sheikh Ali held side meetings with council members to rally support for the project which will use ample domestic naphtha and natural gas as feed-stock.

Kuwait could either import gas or increase output of associated gas from its oil fields. It produces some 1.9 million barrels per day (bpd) and has 92 billion barrels in estimated oil reserves.

The complex would produce low and high density polyethylene, ethylene glycol, polystyrene, styrene monomer, styrene butadiene and aromatics.

Surging oil demand spurs Opec debate

LONDON, March 11, (Reuters): Opec, founded 30 years ago, is at a turning point.

The end of a world-wide oil glut promises to restore its control over petroleum prices. But it has yet to decide how high it wants them to go in the 1990s.

Talks starting in Vienna on Friday will give the 13 oil ministers a chance to try to bridge differences.

"There will be spirited discussion," said a senior official, alluding to traditional divisions between pricing militants and advocates of a more moderate price policy in the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. Recent months have seen a surprise rebound in demand for Opec's oil after the 1980s' glut — so that some analysts see a risk of a new oil "shock" with prices at \$30 per barrel.

Output is declining in the Soviet Union, the biggest producer. It is also down in the United States, the largest consumer where imports of Opec oil rose 25 per cent last year.

Later this year or sometime next, Opec, which was founded in Baghdad 30 years ago this September, may therefore no longer need to ask members to stop prices from crashing — as it has had to do since the glut took hold

in 1982.

Accords, formal or informal, on production programming may only be needed if the goal is to throttle supply and move prices higher than a free market would imply.

The exporters will have to decide whether they want to do that and, if so, how fast, say oil industry officials.

Kuwait wants to use weak prices to prolong the current rebound in demand and thereby ensure a long-term market for its abundant oil. It also has its own world refining system which profits by cheap crude.

Other exporters such as Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Libya and Nigeria are laden with debts and have less production and refining capacity. They prefer to cash in now with high prices.

Saudi Arabia gives an impression it would prefer gradually higher prices but would not side with traditional hawk "Algeria, Libya and Iran if they sought a really big jump."

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has now taken an initiative proposing a modest increase in Opec's target price, set in 1986 at \$18 per barrel. Actual prices have exceeded it lately.

Tourists return to Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, March 11, (Reuters): Sri Lanka's palm-fringed southern beaches are swarming with tourists as a recent easing of civil strife brings visitors flocking back to the Indian Ocean island.

"We're seeing an amazing improvement in tourist traffic," said Manthri Perera, spokeswoman for the five-star Meridien Hotel in Colombo. "There's a feeling that stability has to a considerable extent returned to Sri Lanka."

In some areas of the country, burning corpses are still dumped by roadsides as fighting continues between the remnants of a left-wing rebel group, soldiers and right-wing vigilantes. The north of the island is still gripped by a rebellion by Tamil separatists.

But military victories over the leftists during the past six months have led to a reduction in the scale of the conflict. Fewer soldiers guard the streets of Colombo and a wave of crippling strikes has ended.

This has allowed Sri Lanka's scenic beauty, Buddhist culture and cheap prices to regain their allure for tourists from Europe, North America and, increasingly, from newly affluent Asian societies such as Hong Kong.

"We knew tourism would come back in response to the political situation, but we really didn't expect it to come back so fast," said travel agency manager Gohan Perera.

The staff of
Kuwait Foreign
Trading
Contracting &
Investment Co.
(S.A.K.)

convey their deepest
condolences to their
colleague

Mr Nicholau
Domingo Rebello
on the sad demise of
his wife



مدرسة الكويت الانجليزية
KUWAIT ENGLISH SCHOOL

P.O. Box: 8640
22057 Salmiya - Kuwait

Professional Housekeeper

English-speaking, male or female

Minimum 2-3 years' experience. Responsible for complete cleaning and maintenance of school buildings and staff accommodation, provision of day-to-day catering requirements and numerous other functions associated with the Housekeeping department.
Only applicants with valid Kuwaiti Driving Licence and own car should apply.

For details telephone 5655216/5655218/5625640. Fax: 5629356.
Or write to P.O. Box 8640, Salmiya 22057.

Our Profit Account
gives you the highest interest rate
and maximum flexibility
on your investment.

Now you can open a Profit Account with as little as:

KD500 at 8 1/8 % Interest

US\$1000 at 8 % Interest

UK£1000 at 14 3/8 % Interest

- The Profit Account promises steady and fully guaranteed income.
- The Profit Account ensures easy access to your money.

If you would like to know more about the Profit Account, contact our nearest branch.

البنك التجاري الكويتي
Commercial Bank of Kuwait
The Bank For Today

The following branches are open between 4-6pm Saturdays to Wednesdays:
• Fahaeel • Salmiya • Jahra • Farwaniya



Ronald Plomp

Regional marketing manager

Appointment

THE Ford Motor Company has announced the appointment of Ronald Plomp to the newly created position of regional marketing manager for the GCC, significantly strengthening Ford's presence in the region.

Plomp will be based at Ford's regional centre in Dubai. He will provide marketing support for Ford dealerships in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

"My assignment is another step forward in Ford's plan to consolidate its return to the GCC, which we consider to be one of our most important markets," said Plomp.

"Ford's goal is to provide our customers with products and services that satisfy their requirements better than any other automobile company. My role is to forge a closer link with our dealers and so enable Ford to listen to our customers more effectively than ever before."

Plomp, aged 39, began his career with Ford 17 years ago in West Germany, and most recently was field sales manager for Kuwait and the southern Gulf states.

Expert from Braun AG for Kuwait

MRS Urd Rothe, Home Economist of Braun AG, Kronberg, Germany will be in Kuwait this month. She will be attending the Electro '90 Exhibition to be held between the 18th and the 25th of March 1990 demonstrating Braun Home Appliances on the exhibition stand of Braun AG's Kuwait distributor Union Trading Company.

Mrs Urd Rothe has been with Braun for over 10 years promoting Braun small appliances throughout Germany as well as on international assignments like in Egypt, Malta, Dubai and Africa. She can pass on her wealth of experience in the field of modern kitchen appliances and how they can reduce the drudgery of food preparations.

This is Mrs Rothe's first visit to Kuwait. Therefore in sending Mrs Rothe to Kuwait, Braun AG is extending a strong commitment of support to their Kuwaiti distributor Union Trading Company.

After concluding the exhibition, Mrs Rothe will be available for demonstration at the Salimiyah branch of Union Trading Company Department Stores from 26th to 29th March 1990.

KD deposit rates steady

KUWAIT, March 11, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit rates were mainly steady in a typically tight market.

Dealers reported business only in short-dated funds as operators covered day-to-day positions. Relatively ample liquidity pushed offers for the overnight down to about 8-1/4 per cent from levels of 8-5/8, 3/8 on Saturday.

Fixed period maturities were all quoted steady and flat at 8-3/4, 9/16 per cent. The Central Bank left its dinar exchange rate unchanged as usual today at 0.29200/10 to the dollar.

Meanwhile, the Saudi riyal interbank deposit rates were generally steady in a quiet market today due to the European weekend, dealers said.

Period	Offered	Offered
1 month	8-1/2	8-3/4
3 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
6 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
1 year	8-1/2	8-3/4

KUWAIT, March 11, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Gulf petrochemical firms plan new shipping fleets

BAHRAIN, March 11, (Reuters): Gulf petrochemical companies are planning to get up new shipping fleets to cut down on transport costs as they boost their exports to world markets, regional industry officials say.

Delegates attending a two-day petrochemical marketing conference of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) said shipping was a top priority because GCC companies did not yet have any vessels equipped to carry petrochemicals.

All of the region's current annual exports of around 11 million tonnes of mainly ethylene, methanol and urea

were being transported by foreign ships, they said.

"We must establish our own petrochemical fleets because at present they are run by outsiders — it would save us lots of money," said one Saudi delegate who wished to remain anonymous.

Abdulaziz Salati, chief executive of the Qatar National Navigation and Transport Co. Ltd, urged regional petrochemical companies on Saturday to establish joint ventures with shipping counterparts. Salati is also chairman of the United Arab Shipping Co, owned by Iraq and five of the six GCC states.

Industry sources said Saudi Arabia's giant industrial conglomerate, Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic), and the kingdom's National Shipping Company were taking steps to set up one such firm with \$240 million of capital.

Sabic would take around 20 per cent equity in the new company, which would purchase around 10 petrochemical carriers.

There were no further details but the sources said loans for the company would probably be restricted to Saudi banks.

Sabic, which is 70 per cent state-owned, produces about 6.9 million tonnes of petrochemicals a year.

Kuwait has also said it will build 11 new tankers, including three 10,000 deadweight tonne ethylene/liquefied petroleum gas carriers to service exports from a planned \$2 billion downstream petrochemical project.

Industry sources said Kuwaiti authorities appeared to be in favour of the project, which would include eight new plants, after meeting on Saturday but further talks were needed.

In an attempt to reduce their dependence on oil, Gulf Arab states have

pumped billions of dollars into petrochemical plants in the past decade, making use of abundant and cheap gas supplies.

Gulf officials are optimistic rising world demand will enable them to boost petrochemical output further but their export-oriented industries are vulnerable to price and demand fluctuations.

They also face stiff import tariffs of up to 13.5 per cent in the European Economic Community, which takes about a third of GCC petrochemical products.

Delegates to the two-day conference said the Far East and Southeast Asia, which now take about half of GCC petrochemical exports, were being targeted as the main markets for expansion.

Local banks were also being urged to provide trade finance to the so-called less developed countries (LDCs) in South America, Africa, and the Far East so that they could import more Gulf petrochemicals.

The GCC comprises Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Total US holdings valued at \$63.3b

Nations raise holdings of foreign currencies

WASHINGTON, March 11, (AP): The United States led the way last year as central banks around the world raised their holdings of foreign currency to a record \$768 billion, the International Monetary Fund reported.

The holdings reflect efforts by industrialised countries to influence trade through international exchange rates and by Third World countries to stockpile cash for emergencies. Last year's world-wide level was \$726 billion.

The holdings do not include gold.

The largest increase was in total US holdings of foreign currency, especially West German marks and Japanese yen, IMF said in its March compilation of international financial statistics.

Total US holdings at the end of 1989 were valued at \$63.3 billion, up from \$36.9 billion in 1988, IMF reported. Japan held



Nicholas Brady

\$83.7 billion worth of reserves, down from 97 billion at the end of 1988.

"The United States and Japan were both trying to keep the price of the dollar low so that the United States could sell more

goods, and Japan and others would buy more," said Robert Solomon of the Brookings Institution, a private policy studies group.

"So the United States sold a lot of dollars to push the price down and got a lot of yen and marks in return."

Solomon is a former adviser to the board of governors of the Federal Reserve System, the American Central Bank.

"The Japanese were trying to buy more American goods, so they sold some of their dollars to push the price down," Solomon explained.

A lower price for the dollar makes American goods cheaper and more attractive to Japanese. When the dollar is cheaper, the yen is more expensive. That makes Japanese goods less attractive to Americans.

Both effects tend to lower the US deficit in world trade, which dropped to \$108.6 billion in 1989. That deficit was still a

major world problem though it was down by more than \$10 billion from the year before.

Like other market operations, government buying and selling of currencies does not always work as well as intended.

Japanese authorities have been complaining that the dollar has risen lately despite the intervention. It rose once again on Friday, to more than 151 yen and 1.7 marks.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady and finance ministers of six other major industrial countries have just called a meeting in Paris for April 7. Up and down of the dollar and other currencies will be a major topic.

In most of the Third World, reserves are an insurance against a rainy day when a country needs to buy more goods abroad than it can earn by selling its own products.

Reserves rose for 130 Third World countries to a record \$267 billion, the fund reported.

Soviet officials to look at US system Banking system to be reviewed

WASHINGTON, March 11, (Reuters): Two key Soviet officials, facing the task of setting up a new market-oriented financial system, will this week take a look at the US Central Bank and financial regulatory system.

Soviet Finance Minister Valentin Pavlov and State Bank chairman Viktor Gerashchenko are scheduled to meet top US financial officials from Monday until Wednesday, American officials say.

These will include Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan, Securities and Exchange Commission chairman Richard Breiden and White House chief economic adviser Michael Boskin.

The discussions are also expected to touch on pending trade talks between the two superpowers.

At the Malta summit in December President George

Bush offered Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev a number of trade concessions. Negotiations on individual trade initiatives are under way, with the aim of completing them in time for a June superpower summit in Washington.

The two Soviet officials are expected to talk about the way the US banking system, public debt financing and securities markets work and how the government regulates them.

"They have a lot of interest in how a Central Bank works and monetary policy," said Michael Hall, a Washington trade consultant.

The Soviet officials have the daunting task of establishing a new banking and financial system in line with a market-oriented economy.

They are in the process of converting their state-controlled bank to a two-tiered banking

structure with a Central Bank and commercial banking system.

US officials said. "What they need is well developed capital markets and they should be looking at how to finance public debt without adding to inflation," said one government official, who spoke on the condition he not be identified.

The Soviet government traditionally has just printed money to finance its budget deficit. It is a practice that has left the economy awash in billions of nearly worthless roubles and that could be highly inflationary once prices on goods are allowed to rise to market levels.

The Soviet Union needs to learn how to finance its public debt through government bond offerings, and, like the United States, needs to reduce its massive budget deficits, experts on the Soviet economy say.



Bust of Lenin

Bust of former Soviet leader Vladimir Ilyich Lenin in front of the Soviet hall looks at an exhibition of building engines at the Leipzig Trade Fair in East Germany yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Development bank for E. Europe takes shape

PARIS, March 11, (AP): Finance officials and diplomats from 39 nations gathered yesterday to push along creation of a development bank to boost the sagging economies of Eastern Europe.

The two-day meeting focused on a proposed compromise between the United States, Britain, Japan and other countries to let the Soviet Union take part in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, French officials said.

At the first session to set terms for the bank in January, the United States ruled out Soviet participation unless Moscow made the rouble a convertible currency and initiated other market reforms.

"The United States also contends the Soviet Union hasn't gone as far toward democracy as other East European countries, notably Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The bank would also benefit Yugoslavia, East Germany, Romania and Bulgaria."

Preliminary proposals envision the 12-nation European

Economic Community contributing a majority of the bank's starting capital of about 10 billion European currency units (\$12 billion). Members would be allowed to make deposits and take out loans.

Last week French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas proposed a compromise allowing the Soviets to join the bank as a 6 per cent shareholder while limiting them to 6 per cent of total lending.

After five years, the restriction could be lifted on the approval of 85 per cent of those holding the bank's shares, giving the United States and Japan the power to block the deal.

Japan, Britain and the United States have also insisted loans be restricted to building up the tiny private sectors in Eastern European countries.

But some countries involved in the talks are negotiating for 40 per cent of the lending to be available for public service infrastructure like new roads, rail and telephone networks.

Soviets face hard times in international banking

LONDON, March 11, (Reuters): The Soviet Union, once rated one of the world's safest credit risks, has fallen on hard times within international banking circles, British economists and bankers said.

Western banks have lost much of their appetite for making fresh Soviet loans, thinning the ranks of would-be lenders and forcing up the potential cost of new hard-currency financing.

Some analysts, in fact, believe the Soviet Union can no longer count on commercial lenders for a ready and predictable market in big loans.

The Soviet Union has moved from being a country with a high credit rating to one of the margin of having debt servicing problems," said David Dyker, a specialist in East European economies at the University of Sussex.

Just over a year ago, the Soviet Union could not only count on ready markets for fresh loans but the cost of new financing was actually being driven down amid western optimism over the pace of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms.

But political and economic chaos, underscored by fears of civil war, have undermined Western confidence in the country's ability to dismantle its once monopolistic economic system.

British trade specialists, who say they can no longer predict how much the Soviet Union would have to pay for fresh bank credits, believe Moscow

might be better off raising hard currency through gold sales than through expensive new loans.

Some Western banks are trying to cut Soviet debt exposure by offering old loans for sale at three to five per cent discounts to face value — which analysts say puts yields a full percentage point above initial borrowing costs.

There have been no takers so far. Instead, other banks — the would-be buyers — are staying away hoping to cash in on new Soviet loans at even higher yields.

Late in 1988, when Western euphoria over perestroika was at its height, the Soviet Union's Vnesheconbank was able to raise Western loans at a slim margin of 3/16 per cent over the London interbank offered rate, well below the 5/8 per cent spread that prevailed just before Gorbachev rose to power in 1985.

"It's impossible to say what the rate would be now," said one trade finance specialist who believes some lenders would demand margins as high as one per cent. "It could be anything, but the point is that it would have to be negotiated."

Market jitters have been exacerbated by the news that Soviet trade agencies are falling behind on payments to Western suppliers.

British Trade and Industry Secretary Nicholas Ridley will visit Moscow this week to seek clarification

on delayed payments owed by Soviet foreign trade organisations to British companies.

"The bottom line is that perestroika and glasnost will have over the medium term, the potential to create economic and political disruptions that have negative implications for credit risk," said Standard and Poor's analyst Philip Bates.

However, some bankers also warned against what they described as a "knee-jerk" reaction by the international capital markets as evidence that the basic fabric of Soviet economic power is under threat.

"Most creditors react more to the short-term situation, which offers instability, even though policies being carried out may save the Soviet Union from a slow slide into bankruptcy," said analyst Adrian Friend.

Potentially, the Soviet Union could be the greatest powerhouse in the East bloc over a five- to 10-year time scale," he added.

Dyker said Soviet credit problems began last year, when Moscow made a series of glass-fronted disclosures that painted a much darker economic picture than the West had expected.

Soviet estimates of a \$40-50 billion foreign debt put the debt service ratio at 25 per cent, the level banks start to become reluctant to extend new loans, he added.

Suez Canal planning to offer discounts

ISMAILIA, Egypt, March 11, (Reuters): Egypt is planning to offer discounts of up to 60 per cent on Suez Canal transit tolls to encourage supertankers to use the waterway.

Canal Authority chairman Mohammed Ezzat Adel told reporters today the discounts would be offered to tankers of more than 150,000 tonnes, with the size of the ship and distance of the overall trip determining the amount of the reduction.

Tankers of more than 150,000 tonnes cannot cross the canal when fully-loaded. They would unload part of their cargo into smaller tankers at the port of Suez at the southern end of the canal, for reloading at the Mediterranean.

A similar scheme in which supertankers unload part of their cargo into an oil pipeline running the length of the canal is already operating to full capacity.

The Suez Canal Authority raised transit tolls at the beginning of the year by an average of five per cent, with the lowest increases for large ships.

The authority, which earned Egypt \$1.3 billion in 1988, has said in the past it is keen to attract supertankers which would otherwise sail around the Cape of Good Hope.

Adel also said Libya had agreed to pay debts of \$2.5 million owed to the Suez Canal Authority since 1974. The debts are owed to an affiliated company which built 15 boats for Libya and to a company which helped clean the Libyan port of Darna, he said.



Sales Manager of the Year

Trevor Owen, British Airways Sales Manager Kuwait, has scooped the coveted award as British Airways Middle East Sales Manager of the Year. He received his award from Jim Callery, British Airways Senior General Manager and Head of World Sales, at a regional conference held recently in Dubai.

Commenting on the award Nigel Page, British Airways Middle East Regional Sales Manager said: "In the past year Trevor has achieved some remarkable sales results in Kuwait. He has built and sustained the morale of his sales team and established a strong rapport with his colleagues in customer service."

Picture shows Trevor Owen (centre) receives his award as Middle East Sales Manager of the Year from Jim Callery, British Airways Head of World Sales. They are watched by Nigel Page, Middle East Regional Sales Manager.

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION — WINNERS AND LOSERS

by John Garuti and Benito Rotella

PART FIVE: Canada the Compassionate

Canada is not a dumping ground for the desperate. It's a home for the hard-working. But it does provide for those moments in a working person's life when fate takes an unexpected turn.

Since you will become a tax-paying resident or citizen of Canada if you immigrate there, you will be eligible for one of the most highly developed social programs in the world. Here is a brief look at what is available. These programs go right across the board; the family, the unemployed, the sick and the elderly.

To begin with, Canadian residents can receive the so-called Family Allowance, which varies from province to province in the amount, but which is about \$30 to \$40 a month for each child they support under 18 years of age. Other factors which may affect the amount are the number of children you support and the age of the children.

Child Tax Credit: If you are in the lower and middle-income group of families you can get a special benefit said annually and this amount is based on your family's income.

Unemployment. In the unfortunate case of losing one's job, Canada's Unemployment Insurance program provides a temporary income protection plan. Unemployment can happen through loss of job, illness or the birth of a child. There are several aspects to eligibility but basically it depends on how long you've been working, the salary you earned, the local unemployment rate and the reason you're not working.

If you cannot work because of an illness or injury suffered while at work, the Worker's Compensation program pays for loss of income and medical care for as long as you can't work. In the case of permanent disability to work, you would receive a lump sum or a pension. In the case of death, your spouse receives a monthly pension. How much you receive depends on the province. In any case immigrants can get money for funeral expenses from the moment they start working in Canada in jobs or industry covered under

the program. By the way, the costs of this program are met by the employer.

For senior citizens, Canada does everything possible to make sure you enjoy your retirement years in comfort and peace. In brief, there is the Canada Pension Plan for which contributions are compulsory for both employer and employee. The amount of benefits depends on the amount of contributions to the plan and it can be paid anywhere in the world. In addition, you might also be eligible for the so-called Old Age Security or the Guaranteed Income Supplement. There are five details associated with these programs, but you are sure to be protected in one way or another. Residence and income rules for eligibility are clearly defined.

Finally, the Canadian National Health Insurance Program. This ensures that Canadian residents do not have to meet the costs of certain hospital and medical expenses. Even though the provinces are responsible for the operation of the plan, the coverage is basically the same throughout the country.

What is covered? Necessary hospital services are covered, as well as dental surgery in hospital and doctors' fees. Some services are not covered but the provincial governments provide full information on what is covered under the program. Coverage generally starts from the moment you take up residency and register with a regional office. In Quebec, however, you must cover the first three months of expenses, but if you establish your residency after this, you will be reimbursed. These are the basic social programs. There are others and there are more details you will need to know. But provided you contribute to the building of Canadian society, that is, you are a tax-payer, you and your family can feel secure. As a newly arrived immigrant you have two things to do. Become informed as to what benefits are available and then register. If you are being guided by a good consultant, he will not only have all the options ready for you, but he'll help you in the registering process. Want to know more? Contact:

FOR APT. KUWAIT
KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL HOTEL TEL: 2533000
ROOM NO. 1954

International Entrepreneurs I.E.C. Ltd.

Tel: (514) 288-7825 Telex: 055-61985 Fax: (514) 8451472

2075 University St. Suite 1712 Montreal, QC H3A 2L1 Canada

Don't miss facts about immigration to Canada. Every Saturday, Arab Times

New English School holds Infant and KG sports day



Kuwait



India



England



Poland



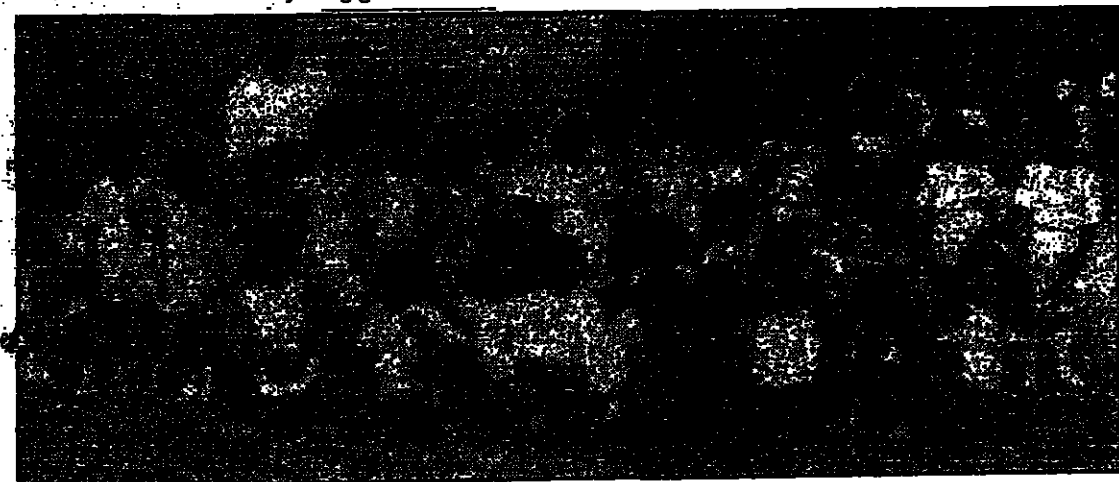
A young girl in action.



Sattam Al Jarallah with a friend.



The band



A participating class



Future Olympic champion?



Three-legged race



Run

THE New English School held its Infant and KG sports day on Thursday, March 8. The weather looked threatening in the early morning but the clouds cleared and the sun shone all day.

The KG and Infant One sports was

held in the morning and started with a delightful international costume parade. Seventy-one children represented 32 nations and these young envoys proudly showed off their beautiful costumes. The Kuwait flag was carried by Abdullah Behbe-

hani, Lulua Al Sabah, Haia Al Ahmed, Hamad Bahman, Marzook Al Tuhail and Sara Al Sabah. The mothers had obviously taken a lot of care and trouble in dressing their children in all the exotic costumes. The KG children then entertained

the guests with a gymnastics display where they jumped off apparatus higher than themselves. It was exciting to see four-year-olds so obviously enjoying themselves with the discipline and challenge of such an activity. The 32 races that followed were organised

with efficient precision by all the teachers. Rosettes were proudly won, tears of disappointment wiped and proud dads filmed it all.

The afternoon was for the Infant Twos and Threes and they produced

an equally colourful costume parade with Kuwait being led by Faissal Al Naibari, Mai Rajab, Khalid Al Othman, Anoud Rajab, Tariq Bader Al Ateqi and Fatima Rajab. This was followed by an excellent display from the Junior Band. Both morning and

afternoon events were watched by hundreds of proud parents. The enjoyable and happy atmosphere was enhanced by a whole-hearted participation of parents in the parent-races.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING

- 9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Khir News
- 9.50 Cartoon Serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Shuaa Min Al Madhi: Arabic Serial
- 11.45 From My Kitchen: Local Programme
- 12.05 Al Malqoof: Local Weekly Serial, starring Abdul Husain Abdul Redha, Mohammed Jaber and Abdullah Khraibit
- 12.30 News Summary
- 12.35 Holy Quran and Closesdown

EVENING

- 4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite (Repetition)
- 4.45 Saham Al Fadha: Cartoon Serial
- 5.5 Mama Anisa and Children: Local Children Programme, Prepared by Samiya Mohammed and Presented by Mama Anisa
- 5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements
- 6.00 Waqala Hakeem: Historical Serial
- 7.00 Varieties
- 7.15 Holy Quran and Science: Religious programme, Prepared and Presented by Dr Ahmad Shawqi
- 8.00 Cultural Serial
- 8.30 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic

KTV 2

- 9.45 Omsiyat Al Ethneen: Local Programme, Prepared and Presented by Mohammed Al Barjes
- 10.15 Illa Al Shabah Maa Al Taheya: Arabic Serial (Final part)
- 11.15 Al Mawed: Variety Programme, with guest star Samah Anwar Prepared and Presented by Tawfeeq Khallaq
- 12.15 News Summary
- 12.20 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.45 Holy Quran and Closesdown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 6.10 Winnie The Pooh: A cartoon series for Children
- 6.30 Wild South: "The First Born Zoo" A look at seal and its environment... Strange birds in New Zealand which are not found in other areas...
- 7.00 Roving Report: A weekly found-up of local, Arab and international news
- 7.30 Trap: "The Art Of Forgery" Aunt "Clarence" is ordered to sell her house under threat... She refuses and her niece is taken as a hostage.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Around The World: A variety of topics and events from all over the world...
- 9.00 Tour Of Duty: "Promised Land" The

assassination of Martin Luther King causes racial tension on the Base. Zeke, who accompanies the body of a friend — a black soldier killed in action — back to the states is asked not to attend the funeral by the family of the killed soldier....

12.00 News in Brief

12.15 Magazine D'Actualite



KTV 2, 10.30, Kit Carson

CINEMA

- Al Andalus
- Al Saigon
- Al Salmiyah
- Cry Freedom
- Al Hamra
- Arabic film
- Drive-in
- Arabic film
- Al Firdous
- Haqqeeqat
- Fahaaheel Open
- Batman
- Al Jahra
- To Burn the Sun
- Granada
- The Capture of Big Foot
- Salaabikhat
- Thunder Run
- Jess
- Raj Bikari
- Ahmedi Drive-in Big

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait City
- Al Dharban Pharmacy
- Arab Gulf Street
- Ibn Sina Pharmacy
- Mubarak Al Kaber Street
- Hawalli and Al Nagra
- Kuwait Pharmacy
- Quotaiba Street
- Al Salmiya and Al Rumaithiya
- Quods Pharmacy
- Amman Street
- Al Fahaaheel and Al Ahmadi
- Al Fahaaheel
- Jleeb Al Shuyookh
- Wahran Pharmacy
- Souk Street
- Al Jahra
- Al Khaled Pharmacy
- Opp. Co-operative Society

PRAYERS

- Fajr 4.43 am
- Sunrise 6.01 am
- Zohr 11.58
- Asr 3.22 pm
- Maghreb 5.55
- Isha 7.11

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Watercolours of Arabia

Recent watercolours by Patricia Mills on exhibition at the studio, the Tareq Rajab Museum, Jabriya, Saturday thru Thursday 9.30 to 12 and 4.30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397; or 5318060.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Little Theatre
KUWAIT Little Theatre presents "Oh Clarence", a comedy by John Chapman, adapted from the books of P.G. Wodehouse. Gala Night is on March 19, 1990, at 7.30 pm with other performances on March 20, 21 and 22 at 8.00 pm. Tickets can be booked by phoning 3919759.

Bangladesh get-together

A NUMBER of Bangladeshi families will hold a spring get-together at the Rawda Park, Damascus Street on March 23. The day-long programme, which starts at 8 am, will include children's games, ladies and gents games and bingo. For details, contact telephone 3725312, 4315352, 4715734, or 3713923.

Shakespeare's Macbeth

THE London Shakespeare Group, who have already received rave reviews for their performance of Macbeth in Bahrain, Doha, Muscat and the Emirates, will perform at the Kuwait English School, Salwa on March 21 and 22, 1990, at 8 pm and on March 23, 1990, at 6 pm. The cast includes professional actors and actresses with classical backgrounds, who have appeared at the London's prestigious National Theatre, various West End theatres, television and radio. All seats are numbered, and can be reserved by ringing 5740256/ 7, 5625316, 5718143 or 5731782.

Jazz concert

THE Kuwait Happy Times Jazz Orchestra in concert playing Jazz from Miller to Modern. Hear great Jazz by Kuwait's only 15 pieces "Big Band." March 13, 14 at 7.30 pm in the Kuwait English School. Call 5334912 or 5314107 for ticket information.

Holi — Festival of Colours

THE IAC is celebrating the festival of colours to commemorate the coming of Spring on Thurs 22nd March at Fun-aitees with a suitable programme. Members and their guests are requested to contact the IAC office (3904817), Sharma (2644863), Raman (3903879), Mathews (4343329), Srivastava (4898162) or Munshi (2423740) for details and passes. Because of limitations, passes are available on first-come-first-serve basis.

Bite 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

Contact

THE next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel, 10 am, on Saturday, March 17. Newcomers particularly welcome. For further details tel. 3720197; 4874513; 5388105.

Ninth Kuwait gold & jewellery exhibition

NINTH Kuwait gold and jewellery exhibition has started yesterday at the grand ballroom of Kuwait Sheraton Hotel.

Al Rujaib Media International, which organised the same successfully is organising it second time. Ten famous Kuwaiti jewellers are going to display their latest and best designs.

The exhibition will continue up to March 15, 1990. It will be open for public from 9.30 am to 1 pm and from 4.30 to 8 pm.

SPORTS

Ahmadi kart racing

THIS Friday sees the highlight of the racing season with the holding of the prestigious Middle East Kart Championship.

This year we have a truly international event with some of karing's top drivers coming from UK, Austria, Brunei, Cyprus and Dubai as well as our own drivers who hail from UK, USA, Canada, Austria and Lebanon. Some of the world's fastest equipment will be in use with speeds of up to 150 kph down the straight.

Racing starts at 12 noon but come early to get a seat in the stands. There is the usual hot foods, sandwiches and drinks from the snack bar.

Photography classes

PHOTOGRAPHY classes by Anne Eid beginning Saturday, March 17, in Surra. Call: Anne - 2426135.

HOTELS

Al Salam Hotel
A GRAND Moroccan festival was launched March 10 at the El Bender Coffee Shop of Al Salam Hotel. This festival is being sponsored by the Moroccan embassy and Royal Air Maroc. An exotic display of handicrafts, a detailed view of national highlights, will be followed by an attractive buffet adequately dressed by a Moroccan chef. Besides plenty of prizes and surprises, a return air ticket to Morocco will top the bill of entertainment. The festival will continue until March 16.

Kuwait International Hotel

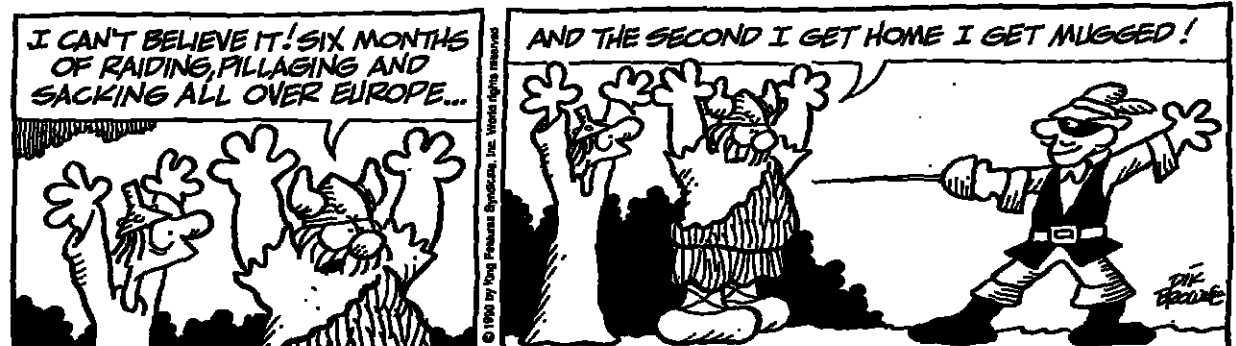
TURKISH Fashion Show: In addition to traditional cuisine there will be a handicraft and carpet exhibition, folk dances, folk music. Gala buffet dinner with an elaborate fashion show and cultural evening on March 16 and 19. Turkish set menu and a special fashion show on March 17 and 18, in the Failaka Restaurant. Tickets at: 2530000 ext. 4010.

Bella Italia: There is a new experience in Italian style dining every evening at La Palma Restaurant from 12 to March 21. Specially flown in for the occasion, chefs Manuel and Roberto Ruppelt will present an unlimited selection of pasta, Mediterranean seafood and desserts. Bellissimo! One guest complimentary for each group of 6 persons. Telephone: 2530000 ext. 8166.

BLONDIE



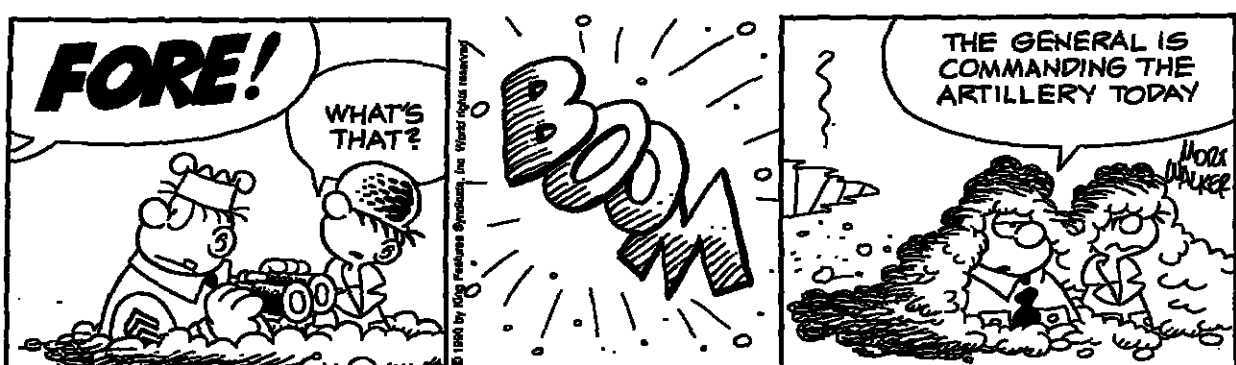
JACK THE HORRIBLE



NEATHA CRUMB



BETTY BAILEY



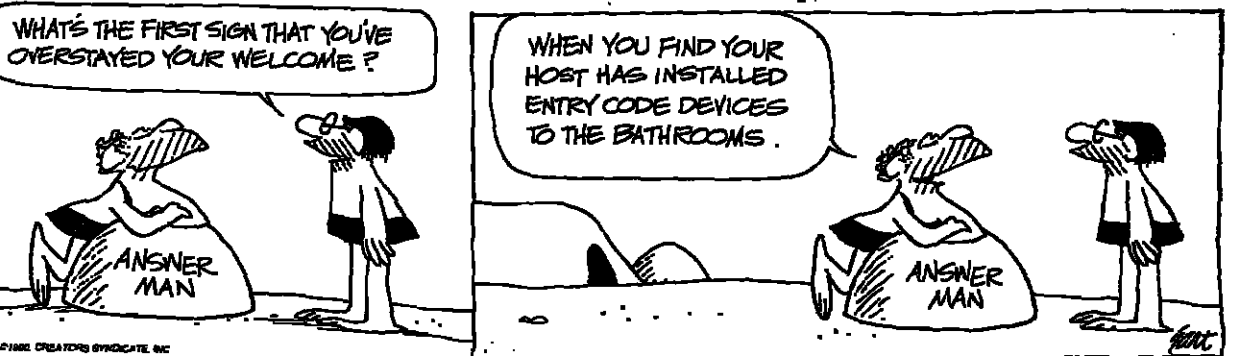
THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CAPP



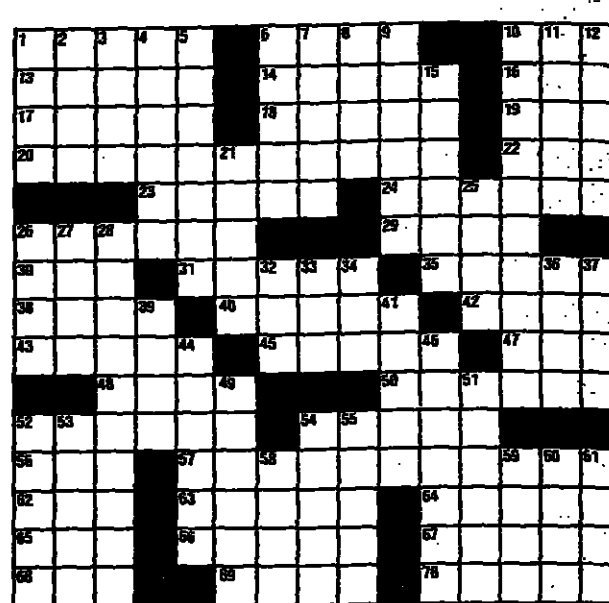
B.C. - BY DOROTHY PARKER



THE MAN



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Rear
 - 6 — to (takes care of)
 - 10 Command to Dobbin
 - 13 Comic Fred
 - 14 Less unruly
 - 16 Fled
 - 17 Blended
 - 18 Greet the day
 - 19 "Bright" button
 - 20 Brother's wife
 - 22 Snood
 - 23 They are often split
 - 24 Word with East, West or America
 - 26 Declare
 - 29 Author Ambler
 - 30 Iota
 - 31 Actor George
 - 35 Namesakes of a nymph
 - 38 Items on tap
 - 40 Heroic tales
 - 42 It has a string attached?
 - 43 Cowboy, at times
 - 45 Arboreal primate
 - 47 Chaney
 - 48 Come together
 - 50 Repaired
 - 52 Wall Street figure
 - 54 Inner contentment
 - 56 Ignited
 - 57 Aunt's child
 - 62 Alas, in Mainz
 - 63 WW II craft
 - 64 Incensed
 - 65 Last letter
 - 66 Singer Reese
 - 67 Theater areas
- DOWN**
- 1 Knocks
 - 2 USSR range
 - 3 Misfortunes
 - 4 Fume
 - 5 Makes beloved
 - 6 Flight of steps
 - 7 Merits
 - 8 Jannings or Ludwig
 - 9 Street or seed
 - 10 Offspring's offspring
 - 11 Atelier support
 - 12 Growing outward
 - 15 Fix an electrical device
 - 21 Ceremonies
 - 25 A Smothers brother
 - 26 Slightly open
 - 27 Fly without an instructor
 - 28 Dad's second wife
 - 32 "Sleepy" Time —
 - 33 Stone or iron
 - 34 Take it on the —
 - 36 Western Indian
 - 37 Transmit
 - 38 Look for
 - 41 Poison ivy's cousin
 - 44 Shortened a sail
 - 46 Finches
 - 49 Erie and Huron
 - 51 Nerve cell
 - 52 Paul Newman film: 1989
 - 53 Kitchen utensil
 - 54 Biblical song
 - 55 Miss Kett and others
 - 58 —poly
 - 59 Kind of palm
 - 60 Chariot's way
 - 61 Aviary residence
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**
- SCID APSE DISID
ALIE GROVE SMOG
LAND ROLES SAMS
LIVENOTONEVILL
ARENA ESS EELER
DER RES USR ETO
BRAT PASASAP
UNSEAT PESTILE
ROTATOR COME
ISR ONE ORE BAN
SHEAR SMU NAVEE
WASITARATISAW
PAIR NOBAL DELE
ARNO DRAGO ECOL
SIGN EMEU TNS

OPEN BRIDGE

MAKING WRONG APPEAR RIGHT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 3
♥ Q 8 7 6 3
♦ K J
♣ 10 7 5 2

EAST
♠ K 7
♥ J 10 9
♦ 9 8 6 3
♣ A Q 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 10 4
♥ A 5
♦ A Q 10 5 2
♣ 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♦ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
3 ♦ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
4 ♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣
They must have played bridge in ancient Greece. What else could have prompted Terence to pen: "There is a demand for men who can make wrong appear right."

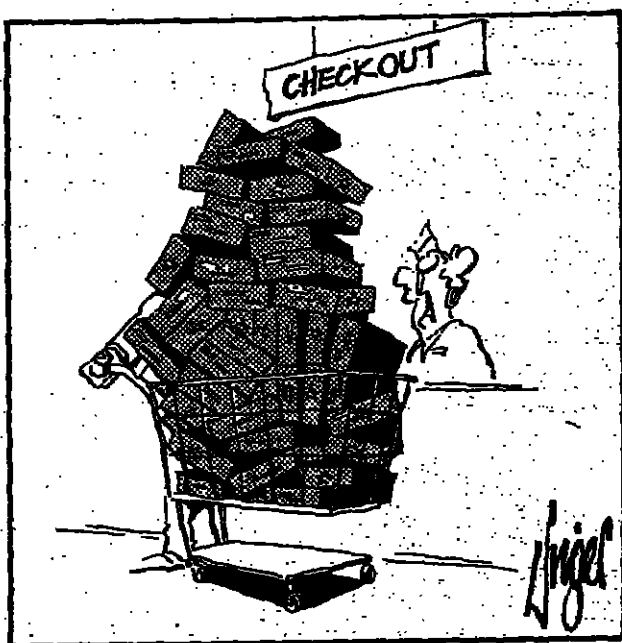
The bidding requires some explanation. North's no trump response was forcing, so South's diamond rebid could have been made on a three-card suit. The rest of the auc-

tion was natural.
Sitting West was our old friend Lee Hazen of New York. He led the jack of hearts, ducked round to declarer's ace. There are those who might count 10 tricks with the South hand, but declarer either couldn't count that high or didn't stop to do so.

A diamond to the jack provided the entry for a spade finesse. West ducked smoothly. Impressed with the success of this maneuver declarer crossed back to the table with the diamond king to repeat the trump finesse. The roof fell in.

Hazen took his king of spades and continued with a low diamond. East ruffed and shifted to a club. West took his queen and gave partner another diamond ruff, and the defenders still had a heart trick coming for down two.

Back in the old country a player could have been shot for playing a hand so lackadaisically. Declarer should have banged out the ace and queen of spades immediately after winning the first trick, although one trump finesse might have been tolerated. But when that succeeded there was no excuse for not continuing with ace and another trump.



YOUR STARS



Do not permit yourself to be daunted by the odds. Instead just concentrate on progressing with what you have to do. You will have to try harder to make ends meet. Be firm.



You are more prone to infection and should take sensible precautions. However do not become a health eccentric. Your lucky numbers are 4 and 20. Take more interest in what interests your partner. Be polite.



Not everyday will be as easy as you had expected it to be. However do not become discouraged, just carry on with what you are doing. Better accept rather than fight against inevitable changes. Be resolute.



You will be glad you did not do something you had half a mind to do at the time. You should persevere with something you are doing even if it proves rather more difficult than you had thought. Ensure you get enough rest. Be realistic.



You will tend to be kept waiting but you should try to get on with something else whilst you are waiting. You will tire rather easily and should do all you can to conserve your energies. Remember: the less you do the harder it becomes to do things. Be tactful.



Do not do more than one thing at a time but do change to something equally important, rather than becoming bored. Try to reserve enough time for reading and keeping up to date. Do not get to extreme. Be tolerant.



You will find a better way of doing something that you often have to do. You should not leave making travel arrangements until the last minute: if you do you will miss a few bargains. Do not rely on luck to get you out of trouble. Be less spendthrift.



You are more liable to fall into a trap so keep your eyes and ears open. Make sure you do not issue an invitation to thieves and burglars. Avoid eating and drinking more than you need to maintain your weight. Be truthful.



Even if you are kept waiting try not to keep others waiting for you. You will be lucky but not in the way you had hoped. Try to avoid getting into a bad habit. Be considerate.



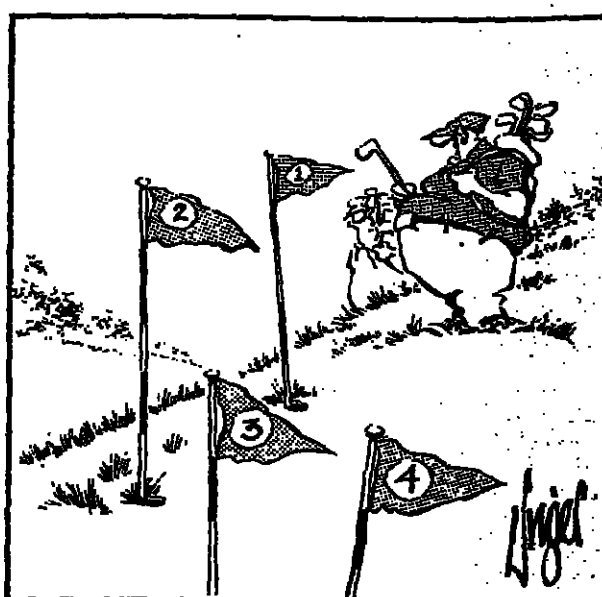
Listen carefully to what others are saying rather than to what you are saying. And do take other people's opinions into account. Avoid making a nuisance of yourself. Be consistent.



Only now will you realize how lucky you have been. You will be able to avoid making the same mistake again. You will receive some good advice but it will not be all that easy to take it. Be reliable.



A letter you have received should not be left unanswered nor a bill unpaid. You are more prone to make mistakes, so look out for them. Take other people's opinions more into account. Be frank.



SPORTS

Jones hammers Kiwis for ton

Australia rout New Zealand



Dean Jones: gets second straight century

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, March 11, (Reuters): Australia cruised to an eight-wicket victory over New Zealand to claim the triangular series with India here today.

Dean Jones guided Australia to victory with an unbeaten century, his second in the championship and fifth in his career.

Australia had been left the simple task of making 163 to win at an asking run rate of 3.26.

The target of 163 set by New Zealand had been made possible by a powerful innings from Richard Hadlee who equalled his highest score of 79 in a one-day international to rescue his side from the depths of 33 for five after just 16 overs.

The Australian pace bowlers had reduced New Zealand to tatters by accurate bowling that was backed up by good fielding and catching.

Hadlee and Jeff Crowe pulled the side up to 113 for six by the 37th over. Hadlee then broke out to make his runs off 92 balls with seven fours and two sixes.

Australia lost an early wicket when Danny Morrison claimed David Boon leg before.

Jones and Geoff Marsh were associated in a stand of 68 for the second wicket before the latter was bowled by Bracewell, who

came into the final in place of medium fast bowler Shane Thomson.

Jones and skipper Allan Border continued on to knock off the remaining runs without fuss even as Jones went on to make his third big score in the championship in which he played only four matches.

Jones' striking form fetched him a second hundred in the tournament against New Zealand, his 102 not out having come off just 91 balls with seven fours and five sixes.

His century came only when Border refused to score more runs off his bat and allowed Jones to go to his hundred with the match settled and the cup there for the asking.

Jones made the winning hit in the 40th over, driving Larsen to the cover fence.

This is Australia's eighth win in a row over New Zealand and the third successive win in this tournament.

New Zealand has not beaten Australia in a one day match since the 1987/88 season when they won in Perth by one run.

It is also Australia's second cup win in a season. They won the triangular series at home against Pakistan and Sri Lanka a fortnight ago.

Australia and New Zealand face each other again in a one off Test at Wellington from March 15 to 19.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND
J. Wright c Healy b Rackemann ... 4
A. Jones c Boon b Alderman ... 7
Greatbatch c Jones b Campbell ... 11
Rutherford c Healy b Rackemann ... 2
J. Crowe c and b Alderman ... 28
G. Larsen c Healy b O'Donnell ... 79
R. Hadlee c Jones b Campbell ... 9
I. Smith c Jones b Campbell ... 3
M. Snedden c Marsh b Taylor ... 5
D. Morrison not out ... 9
Extras (lb-2, w-2) ... 4
Total (in 49.2 overs) ... 162

Fall of wickets: 1-12 2-15 3-26 4-32 5-33 6-113 7-134 8-147 9-147
Bowling: Alderman 10-2-34-2 (w-2), Rackemann 10-2-22-3, O'Donnell 8-3-12-1, Campbell 10-0-37-3, Taylor 9-2-0-50-1, Border 2-0-5-0.

AUSTRALIA
G. Marsh b Bracewell ... 24
D. Boon lbw b Morrison ... 9
D. Jones not out ... 102
A. Border not out ... 19
Extras (lb-2, nb-4, w-4) ... 10
Total (for two wickets in 39.1 overs) ... 164

Fall of wickets: 1-13 2-81
Did not bat: S. Waugh, S. O'Donnell, I. Healy, P. Taylor, G. Campbell, T. Alderman and C. Rackemann
Bowling: Hadlee 9-3-34-0 (nb-1), Morrison 8-0-46-1 (nb-3 w-3), Snedden 5-0-13-0, Larsen 7-1-1-27-0 (w-1), Bracewell 10-0-42-1.

Texas team runs fastest 1,600m relay

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 11, (Reuters): The University of Texas relay team ran the fastest women's 1,600-metre relay ever indoors yesterday to highlight the National Collegiate Indoor Athletics Championships.

The team clocked three minutes 32.01 seconds to surpass the previous best of 3:34.38 by West Germany in 1981. But the mark could not be considered a world record because the anchor member of the Texas team, Sandie Richards, is Jamaican.

All team members must be from the same country for a time to be considered a world record.

Another notable performance was turned in by Mike Stuke of Texas A-M who won the shot put with a throw of 21.49 metres — the best in the world this year.

Gabriel Luke of Rice won the men's 400 metres in a brisk 45.79 seconds ahead of Florida's Tyrone Kemp in 45.85.

In the men's 3,000 metres, Reuben Reina of Arkansas clocked 7:56.52 for the win ahead of Briton John Nuttall of Iowa state who was second in 7:57.55.

In women's competition, Sheila Hudson of California-Berkeley set a new US indoor mark in the triple jump with a leap of 13.94 metres, and Harvard's Meredith Rainey took the 800-metre title in 2:02.77, breaking Mary Slaney's 12-year-old college record of 2:02.9.

Suzi Favour of Wisconsin took two titles winning the mile in 4:38.19 and took the 3,000 metres in 9:02.30. South African Michelle Bekkers of Indiana finished second in the 3,000 in 9:07.87, while Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan of Villanova was third in 9:08.57.

Berger retains US GP pole spot

PHOENIX, Ariz., March 11, (Reuters): Austrian Gerhard Berger, making his first Grand Prix appearance for McLaren following his move from Ferrari, retained pole position for this evening's US Grand Prix with the minimum of bother in heavy drizzle yesterday.

But after completing only a handful of laps during a session ruined by the weather, he warned of a dangerous race ahead if the rare Arizona rain continued to fall on the slippery streets of downtown Phoenix.

"It will be very dangerous if it stays wet," said Berger. "Today there were a lot of puddles and it was very difficult on the straight. I am optimistic about the race because I can get away and stay out of trouble."

"But I feel that if it is raining heavily and as wet as it was in Adelaide at the end of last year then the race should be called off."

"If it stays like it was today, it will be difficult and it will be dangerous. But it will be normal for Formula One and that is alright."

Berger, who claimed the prime grid spot

thanks to his fastest time clocked in Friday's opening qualifying, will be starting from pole for the fifth time in his career and the first time in 26 races since the British Grand Prix in 1988.

Berger will share the front row with Italian Pierluigi Martini in a Minardi, with Andrea de Cesaris of Italy, in a Dallara, and Frenchman Jean Alesi, in a Tyrrell, on row two.

Berger's McLaren team-mate Ayrton Senna, frustrated in his hopes of extending his phenomenal run of 24 front row starts, was fifth fastest and will start on the third row alongside fellow-Brazilian Nelson Piquet, making his debut for Benetton.

Senna said: "I believe I could have been on the front row if I had had the proper opportunity to drive this afternoon. But it will be a long, hard race and I shall have to drive a little harder to compensate for starting from the third row."

The Ferraris of Briton Nigel Mansell and world champion Frenchman Alain Prost,

having suffered a bad day on Friday, were left frustrated in their efforts to improve.

Prost will start from seventh place on the grid alongside fellow-Frenchman Olivier Grouillard in an Osella, but Mansell, visibly disgruntled by his fate, will start from 17th place.

Berger, who traded places with Prost during the off season, said he felt the Ferraris had looked "better than they really are," during winter testing, but "worse than they are" here in Phoenix.

He said he expected there to be a scramble at the first corner, as there was last year, but hoped to keep out of trouble by being first through it.

"It is very slippery off-line on this circuit with all the dust and marbles from the tyres. But I am optimistic — if it is not too wet."

Last year, it rained only seven times in Phoenix and many of the local people at the circuit have expressed amazement at the arrival of showers this weekend.

Jackson breaks record

WOLVERHAMPTON, England, March 11, (Reuters): Colin Jackson set a 60 metres hurdles British all-comers record yesterday and has his sights on American Greg Foster's world record in a week's time.

Welshman Jackson, the Olympic 110 metres hurdles silver medalist, clocked 7.43 seconds in his first indoor meeting of the season, shaving one hundredth of a second off his own record set in Glasgow a year ago.

He said he was aiming to break Foster's world mark of 7.36 at next weekend's triangular international against the United States and Soviet Union at Cosford.

Lindford Christie, Britain's 100 metres Olympic silver medalist who set a European record of 6.51 seconds in the 60 metres in Athens on Wednesday, won yesterday's event in 6.61 seconds.

Bubka beaten in pole vault

GRENOBLE, France, March 11, (Reuters): World record holder Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union suffered a rare defeat when he finished second to Frenchman Philippe Collet in the Masters indoor pole vault event yesterday in Grenoble.

Collet beat the French record with a 5.94 metres effort and beat Bubka, who failed to better his own indoor world record of 6.03 metres.

The Soviet Olympic gold medalist, who will compete again in Donetsk next week, cleared 5.90 metres to take second place, and his compatriot Rodion Gataulin finished third, leaping 5.75 metres.

Collet, bettered by two centimetres the previous French record he beat in last year's Masters, won by Gataulin.



Cycle race

Claudio Chiappucci of Italy raises his arms in victory as he crosses the finish line of the 7th stage of the Paris-Nice cycle race in Mandelieu, France, on Saturday. Spain's Miguel Indurain retained the leader's jersey. (Reuters wirephoto)

Biasion leads Lancia clean sweep



Biasion (right) and co-driver Tiziano Siviero celebrate their victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

LISBON, March 11, (Reuters): World champion Massimo Biasion won his third successive Portuguese Motor Rally yesterday, leading Lancia to a clean sweep of the top five places.

Italian Biasion drove flawlessly to finish two minutes 36 seconds ahead of Didier Auriol.

But the Frenchman, who won the opening event in Monte Carlo in January, stayed top of the drivers' World Championship with 35 points to Biasion's 32.

Juha Kankkunen was the strongest survivor of the powerful Finnish contingent, finishing third, five minutes 11 seconds behind Biasion.

He had a margin of 11 minutes over the second Italian, Dario Cerrato, who finished fourth, 16:26 minutes behind the winner.

Portugal's Carlos Bica gave the home crowd something to cheer about with his fifth place, followed by the first non-Lancia driver, Finn Hannu Mikkola in a Mazda.

The clean sweep was a remarkable feat for the Italian manufacturer, which managed two more finishers in the top 10.

Only 34 of the 99 starters finished the 2,060-km event. "This rally is very tough," Biasion said after the last of the 39 timed stages. "My car didn't give me any problems and I like to see so many spectators on the course."

"Having five Lancias in the first five places is because our team is the best in the world and has the most advanced technology."

Paola di Martini, driving an Audi, made it a treble for Italy as the only woman driver to finish. She ended in 16th place, 53 minutes 44 seconds behind Biasion.

Di Martini's main rival for the women's title, Briton Louise Aitken-Walker, crashed into a lake on the first leg and narrowly escaped death along with Swedish co-driver Christina Thorsen.

A spectator broke his leg within seconds of the start on Tuesday, stepping back to avoid Biasion's car. But there were few serious accidents in the five-day event.

Biasion, seeking his third successive world title, set the pace from the start by winning the time-trial prologue and was never far from the lead. First West German Armin Schwarz and then Spain's Carlos Sainz took over the lead by a small margin on the first leg, which was on tarmac and favoured their Toyotas.

Once the rally moved on to dirt roads on the second leg, however, the Italian was in command. He won 10 of the 39 stages outright, sharing victory in three more. Auriol won 12 stages and shared two.

Mosawi seeks win in Oman

WITH THE BP 2000 Oman Raid just two weeks away the scene is set for the first win of the 1990 season for Qatar's Abbas Al Mosawi, the two-time Marlboro Desert Challenge champion. Driving for Ralliart Middle East in a Pajero backed by Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, the popular driver is very confident of his chances in the coming event.

"Oman is successful territory for me. I won here in 1988 and again last year and there is no reason I can't do the same again in the BP 2000 Raid," said a confident Mosawi. "Furthermore I am reunited with my former co-driver from Ireland Benny Smith for the 1990 season. We work well together and I am sure we can commence a solid defence of the Marlboro Desert Challenge title in Oman."

Ralliart Middle East will be out in force for the BP event which will be run under full FIA Raid specifications, and will also be entering Saudi Arabia's Eid Falah in Pajeros, the latter in the short-wheel-base model in which he won the Kuwait National Championship — four-wheel-drive version.

The strongest challenge to the Mitsubishi entry in the event will come from Dubai based Lebanese ace Michel Saleh who will contest the two-day BP-Marlboro Raid in a Range Rover. Michel is one of the Gulf's most experienced rally drivers and will mount a strong challenge against Abbas Al Mosawi.

If one driver can take victory from Al Mosawi, that is his compatriot Saeed Al Hajri in the new Ford Bronco. Al Hajri looked good at the BP 2000 Dubai Rally in February, for a second overall position, but a broken front differential saw him finish in sixth overall position. With no sand over the Oman stages the event will suit the heavy Ford.

Another challenge to Abbas is expected to come from his own country, with the young and highly talented Nasser Al Atiyah, only in second season of rallying, participating in a Nissan Patrol. Nasser finished third overall in the 1989 Marlboro Desert Challenge, and in the Qatar International Rally he was the early leader against Dubai champion Mohammed Bin Sulayem, before his car broke. He also finished first in the Kuwait local car rally.

There is current speculation regarding the entry of Mohammed Bin Sulayem to the BP 2000 Trophy in the Sultanate. The main problem facing three-time Middle East champion is the availability of a competitive vehicle to tackle the tough Oman stages.

The BP 200, Oman Raid starts at 8.00 am on Thursday March 22 with a prologue which will decide the starting order of the rally. This exciting superspecial stage has become a much anticipated part of Gulf rallying, through the Marlboro Desert Challenge.



Trenary in action during her free programme. (Reuters wirephoto)

Trenary takes world title

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, March 11, (AP): Jill Trenary repeated her performance in the US Championships with a strong free skate yesterday that gave her the World Figure Skating Championships title for the first time.

Trenary didn't win the free skate, which, as expected, went to Midori Ito of Japan, the 1989 champion. Ito received three perfect 6.0s for technical merit, something few women ever receive, though Ito had five of them last year, when she became the first woman to land a triple axel in competition.

But the numbers actually were not in Ito's favour because she was 10th in compulsorys, which Trenary won. Ito, who hit six triple jumps, including the axel, needed to beat the Trenary, a 21-year-old American, by two places in the long programme.

Ito's hopes rested with American Kristi Yamaguchi, the only other free skater likely to



Trenary celebrates her victory.

ship between herself and Trenary. But Yamaguchi fell twice in an uninspired routine and was fourth overall, a charitable third

in the free skate. But another American, Holly Cook, took the bronze by finishing fourth in yesterday's programme. Cook was a surprise qualifier for the US team and an even bigger surprise as a medalist.

She couldn't stop jumping around when she left the ice and she couldn't stop crying as she skated to the medal stand to join Trenary and Ito.

Trenary came off a poor performance in the original programme at the Nationals last month to win her third American crown with a superb free skate. She wasn't quite as dynamic this time, but clearly deserved to be runner-up to Ito in the long.

And that was good enough for the only gold medal for the United States at these championships. It was good enough to erase the memory of another weak showing in the original programme by Trenary.

Belcastro defeats Carroll

LAMEZIA TERME, Italy, March 11, (Reuters): Vincenzo Belcastro of Italy retained his European bantamweight boxing title yesterday, beating off a listless challenge from Britain's Ronnie Carroll.

Belcastro, 29, making the fourth defence of the title he won in March 1988, won a unanimous points victory after taking late control of a match neither boxer seemed enthusiastic about.

Belcastro had not fought for five months and his lack of match practice showed in the first six tentative rounds.

The Italian's powerful left hand rarely found its target in the early stages, while Glasgow-born Carroll, ranked sixth in Europe, seemed reluctant to take the initiative.

Drexler takes Trail Blazers past Bullets

LANDOVER, Maryland, March 11, (AP): Clyde Drexler scored 17 of his 31 points in the third period as the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Washington Bullets 116-113 last night and stretched their winning streak to five games.

The victory left Portland three games behind the first-place Los Angeles Lakers in the Pacific Division.

The win gave Portland a sweep of their six games in Atlantic Division cities this season, well as their first 4-0 road trip since Feb. 21-26, 1978. The Trail Blazers won in New York on Tuesday night, Boston on Wednesday night and Philadelphia on Friday night.

All the Portland starters scored in double figures, with Kevin Duckworth getting 23 points, Terry Porter 12, Jerome Kersey 11 and Williams 10. Washington was led by King with 29, Jeff Malone with 27 and Walker with 19.

Suns 101, Timberwolves 96

Eddie Johnson scored the winning basket in overtime and Kevin Johnson scored 24 points as Phoenix posted its fifth straight victory, four on the Road. Tom Chambers added 21 points for Phoenix.

Kevin Johnson's free throw tied the score 94-94 for Phoenix with 28 seconds left in regulation. For Minnesota, Tony Campbell scored 27 points and Sam Mitchell came off the bench to score 25.

Results

Portland 116 Washington 113
Phoenix 101 Minnesota 96
Chicago 117 Indiana 105
Houston 105 Dallas 95
New York 110 New Jersey 101
San Antonio 118 Denver 111
LA Clippers 112 Orlando 104

Monroes finish in top place

OF all the four Mouchel Kuwait Dart League run this year, the men's Monday competition provided the least dramatic climax to the season's exploits. The top three teams had been known for some time, and after Monroes' had beaten Baggis in the clash of giants three weeks prior to the end of the fixtures, it was really only a matter of whether Baggis or Campanologists would clinch the runners-up spot.

Although Monroes were pushed hard in their final two games, both being 4-2 victories, they ultimately triumphed by a comfortable 3 points. Formed from the ashes of Ken Edwards' old Canning League, the side moved up market with a new, Hollywood image, and created a truly international blend of players, who were led ably from the rear by Keith Chandler.

Having improved steadily from their inception into the League three years ago, they have finally made it to the top after last year's third place, and as they have used eight registered players in one capacity or another, it is impossible to pick out one player more than the rest as they all played their part in a memorable team performance.

With Baggis' two-year dominance brought to an end, Exiles rubbed salt in the wound by inflicting a third defeat of the season, which allowed Campanologists to push them further down to third place, thanks to their comfortable performance against TCF. Exiles' Phil Reeves and Nick Hassel both had 3 high scores, as did Campanologists' Ian Thomas.

At the foot of the table, changing their name from Mishraf to Stars of the Year didn't help Rob Marks' team too much, as they comfortably retained their wooden spoon. Although with one point out of 40 being transformed into two from 38 this year, at that rate of improvement they would be a force to be reckoned with by the 1993-94 season.

The most disappointing team of the second half of the season was surely Type. Ten wins, with 2, 2, and 0-6 results ended up losing their last 6 games with only 4 legs won to plummet from being within the grasp of the third place slot at the season's mid point. By contrast Baggis & List finished strongly with 3 wins and high scores galore for Stewart, Skelhorn, Billy Vignate and Brian Pond.

Wayne Mocco clung on to win the highest finish award with a 117 achieved in week 9, even though he lost game to Monroes' Stephen Allen Anderson, and had to endure late 108 and 107 efforts from Erik Christensen and John Watson. These latter two also provided the last minute excitement in the men's Most No. of High Scores Trophy. Going into the last game with 31 and 32 respectively, it was not to be Watson's night though, as he struggled to find the trouble twenty, whilst Christensen's battle with Ragnamuffin Dave Bosworth produced a 140 and 5 100's for himself, and 2 100's for Bosworth, to make himself the singles player the winner by 37 to 33.

Early season leader Andy Wilson suffered with erratic form to fade into third place overall, although his one victory in the last 6 matches was an excellent 2-0, revenge win over Ian Thomas who beat him in the Captain's and Committee's Cup final just a few weeks ago.

A measure of the level of competition seen this year was that only one player managed an undefeated, and that was Baggis' Steve Edwards who left Kuwait at Christmas missing the final 7 games of the season, 42 of the 64 players had 140 scores during the year, an almost identical strike rate to the ladies, but only two players, Alan Walker and Campanologists' captain Dougie Francis, which is well below the 11 such scores in 1988-89, achieved in a comparable number of matches.

The final Mouchel Monday Men's League scores were as follows:

Cottar House	4	Type Test PP	2
Ragnamuffins	2	Monroes	4
Campanologists	5	TCF	1
Exiles	4	Baggis	2
Baggis & List	4	Stars of Y	2
Baggis & List	6	Type Test PP	0

Nasa go down fighting

Salcete clinch title



Salcete captain Abdulla displays the winner's trophy.



Kenneth receives his award.

SALCETE UNITED won the Youth Recreation Centre (YRC) Trophy soccer tournament on Friday with a 5-4 victory, via a tie-breaker, over Nasa at the Sour Grounds.

A capacity crowd was entertained to some fine soccer by the two teams. Salcete, which boasts the best midfield trio at the Sour Grounds, controlled the game with Victor being outstanding.

Salcete missed a chance to go ahead in the 10th minute when Romel failed to collect a pass from Victor and the ball went to Agnello, who also failed to beat the goalkeeper.

In the 18th minute, a long clearance by a Salcete defender saw Romel control the ball at the top of the penalty box and beat a number of Nasa defenders. He, however, shot wide with only the goalkeeper to beat.

Chance
Young Kenneth was the brain behind all the Nasa moves. He also got a chance to put his team ahead when he collected a pass near the midfield but saw his 35-metre shot rebound off the bar. The game displayed by the Nasa boys in their earlier matches was

lacking in the final with Juzer on the left flank just a shadow of himself.

The first goal of the match came in the 30th minute when a corner kick by Victor was headed by Romel to Agnello, who nodded the ball past the bewildered Nasa goalkeeper.

Soon after the first goal, Nasa found a penalty appeal against Salcete disallowed after a Salcete player was alleged to have handled the ball in his penalty area. Kenneth was in the act again when he tried to get an equaliser but saw the goalkeeper just manage to tip the ball over the bar.

Nasa began the second half well but again their players missed a number of chances to level the game. Kenneth figured in two of these chances. In the first he dodged past two Salcete defenders only to see his shot shake the far post and in the second he shot wide.

Kenneth was however, not to be denied a goal and five minutes later he got the equaliser for Nasa when a corner kick taken by him curled in at the last moment to surprise all the Salcete defenders and leave the ball lying in the



The winners with the chief guest and other officials. (Photos by Javed Basra)

goal. Nasa were, however, lucky to survive an onslaught by the Salcete players after this goal. In the dying minutes of the game the Nasa goalkeeper did well to keep the ball out from a shot taken by Agnello.

Both the teams went on to the defensive in the extra time and there was only one good move during that period in which Kenneth, Claro and Vincent combined well to break through the Salcete defense but Vincent lost his scoring touch in front of the goal.

In the tie-breaker, Salcete converted all their five shots but Nasa's Kenneth found that luck was not on his side when the rival goalkeeper stopped his attempt.

Standard
After the match, the prizes were presented to both the teams by Fouad Al Masri, the general manager of the Gulf Trading and Refrigeration Co. (GTRC). Al Masri appreciated the arrangements made by the organisers and was also impressed by the standard of the game displayed. This was the eighth time that YRC organised this event.

Kenneth may have missed a vital penalty but there were no doubts in the minds of the judges and the spectators when he was awarded the Best Player of the Final award.



Al Masri being introduced to the Nasa players. YRC president Lawrence Pinto (left), and vice-president Patrick Rodrigues (2nd left) accompanied the chief guest.

Bhutto Trophy

EVERGREEN meet Lanka Colts in the final of Bhutto Memorial Cricket Trophy at the EPI Grounds (Ardi) on Friday. The tournament is named after Pakistan's late prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, sponsored by Pakistan Peoples Club and organised by Gulf Cricket League.

Two running trophies, one each for the winners and runners-up have been donated by Rafique A. Mirza, General Secretary of the club. Man of the match will be awarded with a return ticket to Islamabad or Colombo, depending upon the choice of the winner.

The match will be a 45-over full-day affair starting at 9.00 am. The prize distribution ceremony will take place immediately after the match around 4.30 pm. One of the federal ministers of Pakistan, who is expected to visit Kuwait specially for the occasion will be the chief guest and would also give away the prizes according to Dr Riaz Ahmed Mahesar, the president of Pakistan People's Club.

Something terribly wrong with UAE: Felipe

KUWAIT, March 11, (AP) The performance of World Cup contenders the United Arab Emirates soccer team at the 10th Gulf Cup tournament gave the impression that all is not well in its ranks.

"I had seen this team in Singapore when they qualified from the second round but what I saw in this tournament was completely different," Kuwait's Brazilian coach Luis Felipe said. "I think there's something terribly wrong."

He spoke after his team's 6-1 mauling of the UAE in the final match of the 18-day tournament that ended on Friday.

The UAE's Polish coach Bernard Blaut, who took over from Brazilian Mario Zagalo in January, couldn't explain why his team was doing so badly. "This is not my team and I don't understand why they are playing such bad football," Blaut said after a 1-1 draw against underdogs Oman.

UAE played somewhat better only against Iraq for a 2-2 draw. But a West German television crew was not impressed. "I think they were very bad in the match against Iraq," said one of the crew. The Germans were in Kuwait to concentrate on

the UAE in action. West Germany and UAE, together with Yugoslavia and Colombia, play against each other in Group D in the World Cup finals in June in Italy.

After the UAE's 1-0 defeat at the hands of Bahrain, who scored their only goal of the tournament to win against the UAE, Blaut said, "This is a catastrophe for me and my team."

He avoided the press after his team's crushing 6-1 defeat by Kuwait.

Blaut earlier said he hoped his team will return home well prepared for the World Cup finals in June. "This tournament will serve as a warning for my boys, they know now where they stand," said Blaut, who has been in UAE since 1988 with one of the local clubs.

The Brazilian Felipe and Bahrain's West German coach Uli Maslo shared an opinion that UAE had good potential and skilled individual players, and hoped they would do better in the World Cup finals.

Blaut throughout the tournament accused his players of disobeying his orders. "They changed

tactics on the field," he said. Mubarak Ghanim, who led the team until the last match, was neutral when he spoke about how he felt Blaut was working with the team.

"He has joined us in January so it is difficult to say anything. Even a father cannot say how his son would be at the time of birth," Ghanim said.

The Emirates team clicked only when they played with five defenders and depended on counterattacks, which was evident in the match against Iraq. Whenever they adopted open aggressiveness, they ended up losing a point or points.

The strikers were not good, squandering open chances with wild shooting and an unimaginative approach to goal. Blaut's decision to keep striker Fahd Khamis on the bench was widely criticised but he stuck to his guns saying, "Fahd doesn't suit the style of play I want."

Stomach pains by five of the players in the beginning of the tournament also affected the UAE's early matches.

Oldham move closer to Wembley double

LONDON, March 11, (Reuters) For almost a century, Wembley has been little more than a distant dream for Oldham Athletic.

Until this season, the closest the little Second Division club came to any English Soccer Cup final appearance was defeat in the Football Association (FA) Cup semifinal of 1913.

Ten years later, they left the First Division.

But now, 90 years after their foundation, "The Latics" are on course for promotion and a Wembley Cup final double.

In midweek they clinched a League Cup final appearance against holders Nottingham Forest and yesterday they sent last year's losing finalists Everton out of the FA Cup.

The fifth round second replay set them up for a tough quarter-final against League leaders Aston Villa but, undefeated in 34 consecutive matches on their controversial artificial pitch, at Boundary Park, their confidence is soaring.

In yesterday's reduced First Division programme, Villa beat Luton 2-0 to take over at the top from Liverpool, whose FA Cup quarterfinal took them to Queen's Park Rangers today.

Liverpool, two points behind, have a game in hand and are six points ahead of third-placed Arsenal, the defending champions, who struggled to a 1-1 draw at relegation-threatened Manchester City.

For Everton, whose manager Colin Harvey was once a playing partner of Oldham's Joe Royle at Everton, defeat at Oldham was all the more galling since the visitors had taken the lead in the 12th minute.

To add to Harvey's agony, it was an Everton reject who scored the crucial goal from a penalty in extra-time. Ian Marshall, bought from Everton two years ago and play-



Chelsea's Kevin Wilson (left) rises high to meet a header against Norwich in yesterday's English First Division game. (Reuters wirephoto)

ing as an emergency striker to replace the injured Andy Ritchie, was needlessly felled in the area with the score at 1-1. The ball was heading harmles-

sly for the corner line and Marshall was already on his way out of the area when defender Neil McDonald brought him down with a clumsy tackle.

UAE is a family affair

KUWAIT, March 11, (AP) World Cup soccer contender the United Arab Emirates is a family affair.

The defence is in the hands of twins Ibrahim and Eissa Meer, and brothers Mubarak and Khalil Ghanim.

The link-line has Nasser Khamis, who was awarded the Best Player prize in the tournament, while brother Fahd Khamis plays in the front as well as the midfield.

Fahd played for 34 minutes against Oman in the 18-day Gulf Cup soccer tournament that ended last week in Kuwait.

Then he played for a full 90 minutes against Qatar before being dropped for the rest of the tournament by coach Bernard Blaut, a decision that was criticised by many.

The Meers play fullback, with Ibrahim on the left and Eissa on the right.

Ibrahim, who is a great fan of Diego Maradona of Argentina, and Eissa, who is a fan of Ruud

Gullit of Holland, do not think they will be overawed or star-struck in Italy.

"We are going to Italy to show others the Gulf Arab brand of soccer," Ibrahim said.

The 22-year-old Eissa made his international debut first in 1986 against Pakistan in the Asian Games in Seoul, South Korea. Ibrahim joined the UAE defence in 1988 against Jordan.

Both play for the Sharjah club, successfully trained since 1988 by Bernard Blaut, the Polish coach who was selected in January to get the UAE ready for the World Cup.

Mubarak Ghanim, who at 26 is a year older than brother Khalil, attributed the UAE's dismal performance in the Gulf Cup that just ended in Kuwait in part to the too-short training time the team has had with Blaut.

"We will be back to prove we are the force to reckon with in the Gulf Arab region," Mubarak said.

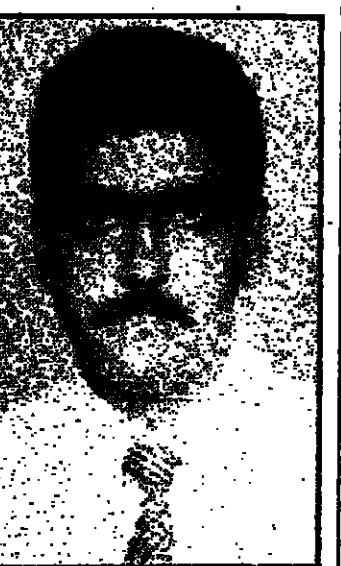
Bombay beat Salmiya

BOMBAY YOUTH thrashed Salmiya by seven wickets in a Radi Mohammed Murad Cricket Tournament match at the Salmiya Ground on Friday.

Batting first, Salmiya were all out for 110. Fiaz was the only batsman to face the Bombay Youth bowlers with any confidence. He scored 36. Nareesh took four wickets for 21 runs while Yaqoub captured two.

In reply, Bombay Youth got the required runs for the loss of only three wickets and in only 15 overs. Sukumar was the top scorer with 46 while Khalid scored 39.

On Friday, Bombay Youth face Castrol in one of the semifinals. The winner of this match will face Rams in the final on March 23.



Nareesh: four wickets

Ricci-Club

CONTEMPORARY HARMONY



New EAU DE TOILETTE for Men

NINA RICCI
Paris

Distributors in Kuwait: HABCHI & CHALHOUB Tel: 2434233

SPORTS

QPR hold Liverpool in FA Cup quarterfinal

LONDON, March 11. (Reuters) Holders Liverpool were held to a pulsating 2-2 draw to Queens Park Rangers in their FA Cup quarterfinal today.

In the day's other quarterfinal a disputed goal by Brian McClair gave Manchester United a place in the last four at the expense of Second Division Sheffield United.

Liverpool, a goal down at half-time, must have thought the match was over when Wales striker Ian Rush put them 2-1 ahead in the 80th minute but Simon Barker equalised three minutes later.

Former England international Ray Wilkins had put Rangers ahead in the 29th minute after goalkeeper Bruce Grobelaar had dropped a Barker cross.

England striker John Barnes equalised with a blistering free kick from 25 metres in the 55th minute.

The replay will be at Anfield on Wednesday, with the winners playing Crystal Palace in the semifinals. Palace beat fourth division Cambridge 1-0 yesterday.

Second Division Oldham, who beat last year's losing finalists Everton 2-1 in a fifth round second replay yesterday, host First Division leaders Aston Villa on Wednesday for a semifinal place against Manchester United on April 8.

McClair's 29th minute goal — the only one of the tie — was hotly contested by the Sheffield players, who claim United's Mark Robins had been offside when he collected the ball and had then been awarded a corner for running it out of play.

McClair's header from the corner was tipped on to the bar by goalkeeper Simon Tracey but the Scotland international forced in the rebound.

United, struggling to escape from the First Division relegation zone, now have an opportunity to emulate their 1948 feat of reaching the cup final without having played a match at home.

Manager Alex Ferguson left the dugout after the match to cheer from the United fans who had been baying for his dismissal earlier in the season.

Results

English Football Association (FA) Cup quarterfinals: Sheffield United 0, Manchester United 1; Queens Park Rangers 2, Liverpool 2 (replay on Wednesday).

English Division Three: Bristol Rovers 0, Leyton Orient 0.

Draw

Draw for the semifinals of the FA Cup made today: Oldham or Aston Villa v Manchester United; Crystal Palace v Queens Park Rangers or Liverpool.

Matches to be played on April 8.

SPORTS BRIEFS

PGA Classic

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla., March 11. (Reuters) John Huston posted a two-under-par 70 yesterday to take the lead heading into the final round of the million-dollar PGA Classic golf tournament.

Lappalainen wins

PHOENIX, March 11. (UPI) Finland's Robert Lappalainen capitalised on the mistakes of others to win the Phoenix Grand Prix Trans-Am race in his Ford Mustang.

Italian soccer

ROME, March 11. (Reuters) Results of Italian First Division soccer matches today:

Ascoli	0	Cesena	0
Atalanta	4	Lazio	0
Bologna	1	Fiorentina	0
Genoa	0	Bari	0
Internazionale	0	Verona	0
Juventus	3	AC Milan	0
Lecco	1	Napoli	1
Roma	1	Sampdoria	1
Udinese	1	Cremonese	1

Sabatini to meet 13-year-old American

Capriati reaches final



Capriati shows her happiness after defeating Gildemeister. (Reuters wirephoto)

BOCA RATON, Fla., March 11. (Reuters) Jennifer Capriati wrote another chapter in her storybook start as a professional by scoring a straight-set victory yesterday to reach the final against top seed Gabriela Sabatini in the \$350,000 Florida women's tennis tournament.

The 13-year-old American was taken to two tiebreakers by 10th seed Laura Gildemeister of Peru before prevailing 7-6 (9-7) 7-6 (7-4).

Sabatini of Argentina advanced when third-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez retired at 4-4 in the first set with a strained hamstring in her left leg.

Capriati, at 13 years and 11 months, became the youngest player ever to reach the finals of a professional tournament.

"I really can't believe I'm in the final," Capriati said. "This is like a dream come true."

Capriati continued to show her ability to battle back, this time rallying from 5-2 down in the first set tiebreaker when she saved off three set points to win.

Again in the second set, the hard-hitting Capriati fell behind

4-2, but came back with her blistering groundstrokes to force a second tiebreaker. This time, she never trailed and won on her second match point.

Asked about her ability to play well on important points, Capriati said: "I think it's just something I was born with or it's just natural. I don't train to do it."

Fernandez said she injured her hamstring at 2-2 in her match with Sabatini. "I was running for a shot and I landed on the leg bad," she said.

She managed to win that game for a 3-2 lead. But during the changeover she took a five-minute injury timeout to try and have the leg wrapped, but decided against it when the chair umpire assessed her a warning for delay of game.

After dropping serve in the next game, she told the chair umpire she could not continue.

The injury was most untimely as Sabatini admitted she wasn't playing well. "I'm a little disappointed because I wasn't going for the match," said Sabatini. "I wasn't hitting the ball like in the other matches."

Bae sets 1,500m record

SAPPORO, Japan, March 11. (AP) South Korea speed skater Bae Ki-Tae, the world sprint champion, bounced back from a loss the previous day and won the men's 1,500-metre race in record time today in the Asian Winter Games.

Japanese ace Seiko Hashimoto came from behind in the women's 1,500 for her second gold medal here, helping put Japan one gold ahead in the Games medal race after three days of competition.

North Korean and Japanese players brawled late in the first period of their ice hockey game, delaying the action for 30 minutes while officials assessed penalties.

One North Korean player was given a match penalty, another was sent off for 10 minutes for misconduct, and five North Koreans and five Japanese were penalized five minutes each for fistfights.

The fight erupted at 17:20 when North Korea's Ko Yong Nam hit Japan's Akihito Sugisawa's in the left eye with the butt of his stick. Stick-waving players of both sides poured on the ice.

and began scuffling.

Japan, leading 4-0 at the time, went on to a 6-2 victory, its second triumph against no losses. China, which tied North Korea 6-6 yesterday, beat South Korea 7-2.

China, the medals leader through the first two days, did not win one gold today. Its best hope in the day's events, Wang Xiuli, finished 1.82 seconds behind Hashimoto.

Japan led with eight golds. China had seven and South Korea five.

Japanese skiers swept the top four places in the women's Giant Slalom and finished 1-2 in the women's 10-kilometre cross country race.

Bae, upset by China's Song Chen in the 500-metre race on yesterday, won the 1,500 in 2 minutes 0.48 seconds, breaking the Asian Winter Games record of 2:01.46 set in the first Winter Asian in 1986 by Japan's Yukihiro Mitani.

Toru Aoyanagi of Japan was second in 2:00.70 and South Korea's Lee In-Hoon third in 2:01.46.

Asked about reports that Bae, 24, might retire, Chang Myoung-Hi, deputy chief of the South Korean delegation, said, "We hope he will continue to compete as we needed 10 years to make Bae the world's top-ranked skater. South Korea never has won a medal in the winter Olympics so we hope Bae will make history by winning a medal at the 1992 Albertville Olympics in France."

Hashimoto, who returned to Japan last week after placing second in the 1990 World Championships, trailed Wang by 0.37 seconds after 1,100 metres in her 1,500-metre race.

But with a strong final lap, she won in 2:11.23. Wang was second in 2:13.05 and North Korea's Chong Chang Suk was third in 2:14.22. Chong also placed third in the 1,500 in the recent World Junior Championships.

Hashimoto, who had lost a race to Wang in the world championships, said, "I had confidence in coming from behind. I was less than one second behind at the 1,100-metre point."

Dryhurst's goal helps Salwa draw

THE latest game in the Kuwait Premier Football League saw the long awaited clash between Salwa, a team comprising players with many years experience of football in Kuwait, and Bargain House, a team making its debut this season.

Salwa went into the game as League leaders boasting the only unbeaten record in the league. The odds of retaining this record, however, appeared to be against them as they could field only 10 players for this important fixture. Bargain House, too, began the game with only 10 men, but they were up to full strength shortly after the kick-off.

Bargain House had the better of early exchanges, they were making full use of the windy conditions which were in their favour in the first half, and managed to keep their opponents pinned back in their own half for long periods. The wet conditions may have been partly contributory to the first goal of the game as a seemingly harmless shot by Mahyer of Bargain House appeared to deceive Andy Hopkins in the Salwa goal and the ball found its way into the back of the net. Despite further pressure, Bargain House could not make their territorial advantage pay dividends and the half ended with them holding only a slender one-goal lead.

The second half saw Salwa taking the initiative as they began to force their opponents back into their own half. Probing runs down either flank by Peter Elliott, however, failed to provide the penetration required and Salwa, like Bargain House in the first half, resorted more to the route one tactics made famous by Wimbledon in an effort to get the elusive equalizer. As the half wore on, it seemed that Bargain House might hold out for victory.

Salwa, however, were not to be deterred and a corner kick two minutes from time put them on level terms. The kick, an inswinger, taken by Peter Dryhurst curled over the heads of the Bargain House defenders and directly into the net.

A final scoreline of 1-1 was a fair reflection on the game. This result keeps both teams in contention for League honours as the season nears the half-way mark.

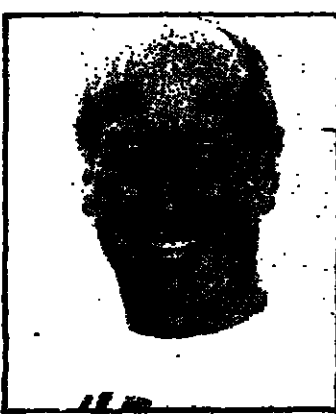
Charlton making soccer training video

BOBBY CHARLTON C.B.E. the former England and Manchester United soccer star, arrives in the UAE next week to make a video film commissioned by Pepsi-Cola for teaching soccer skills to Arab youths.

Demonstrating the skills on the video will be a number of leading Arab international soccer players including Saleh Al Nuaima, captain of the Saudi national team.

The Pepsi film highlights the five most important basic soccer skills of long passing, shooting, dribbling, short passing and ball control. It is being carried out under the auspices of the Union of Arab Football Association (UFAA).

"We are absolutely delighted to have Bobby Charlton's help in making this video," said Saad Abdul-Latif, vice-president of Pepsi-Cola International — Arabian Peninsula. "With 106 caps for England and having won every major title there is in world football, he represents the important values of both football and life. The youth of today could not have a better role models than the likes of Bobby Charlton and Saleh Al Nuaima."



Bobby Charlton

Hadlee to play only one more Test



Hadlee: feels he is losing his edge

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, March 11. (Reuters) Test cricket's greatest wicket-taker Richard Hadlee said today this week's Test against Australia would be his last.

The only man to have taken 400 Test wickets, Hadlee was widely expected to bid farewell after New Zealand's tour to England beginning in May.

"I won't be going to England. I'm losing my edge. I'm getting slow in the field and I feel quite weary," the greying 38-year-old told reporters after the one-day triangular series final against Australia.

"At 38, I shouldn't really be playing the game at Test level," he added. "Most give it away in their mid-30s. Maybe, though, it will set a standard for other sportsmen who face a similar situation."

Hadlee has lasted in the game far longer than most fast bowlers but time is beginning to tell. "It's rare for me to wake up in the morning without pain in my leg," he said.

Always the perfectionist, Hadlee has set himself a final goal in his last Test appearance.

"A five-wicket bag and one run would be nice," he said.

A five-wicket haul in the

Wellington Test starting on Thursday would be his 100th in first class cricket and one run would allow him to join an elite club of three others Ian Botham, Kapil Dev and Imran Khan, who have taken 300 Test wickets and scored 3,000 Test runs.

"I have worked long and hard — I want to go out on a high," he said recently. "I always hoped that I'd have good enough friends to suggest when to pack it in. It would be a tragedy to end on a low note."

Hadlee recently staged a remarkable recovery from an Achilles tendon operation, one of the few injuries in his 19-year career.

His swift rehabilitation was typical of his fierce determination and his obsession with goals — this time to be the first to take 400 Test wickets.

He reached that target in the first Test against India in Christchurch last month and now has 408 wickets at an average of 22.34.

Hadlee's last game on Eden Park was a personal, though not a team, triumph as New Zealand went down by eight wickets.

Coming to the crease with New Zealand in deep trouble at 33 for five, the great all-rounder

equalled his highest international one-day score of 79.

The innings was typical Hadlee against his favourite opponents on his favourite home ground.

He was greeted with a roar by the 15,000 spectators and as he got into his stride they began the old chant: "Had-lee, Had-lee." Twice he clubbed off-spinner Peter Taylor for huge sixes inspiring the crowd to increase the volume.

He was finally out to a catch by David Boon who intervened before the ball could cross the boundary for another six.

The crowd stood, knowing this was probably Hadlee's last appearance here, and he responded by turning to each of the stands, hand-clapping his hat above his head, acknowledging their support.

But with the ball, the old Hadlee magic was missing. The inch-perfect control was still there, but some of the fire was lacking and he failed to take a wicket.

Like most of the other New Zealand bowlers, Hadlee had the indignity of being hit for six by a rampant Dean Jones. He finished with no wicket for 34 off his nine overs.



Agassi: brushed aside Becker

Agassi, Edberg triumph

INDIAN WELLS, Calif., March 11. (Reuters) Andre Agassi took advantage of a worn out Boris Becker yesterday to advance to the final of the million-dollar Champions Cup tennis tournament against Stefan Edberg.

Agassi, the sixth seed, beat the top-seeded West German 6-4, 6-1, and the second-seeded Edberg advanced by the same score in his semifinal against unseeded American Jim Courier.

Becker had trouble finding his rhythm in the first set and seemed to run out of steam in the second against the American, who notched his first victory in four matches against Becker.

The West German indicated that he had paid the price for playing both singles and doubles all week.

"The last two days took its toll," Becker said. "In singles and doubles I played five sets. I was a little bit exhausted, especially in my mind, and I couldn't push it any more today."

Becker broke strings in his racket early in the first set and struggled to feel comfortable after that. He changed rackets several times in the match and served progressively worse as Agassi powered groundstroke winners and returns.

Edberg, ranked third in the world behind Becker, had an easy time against Courier. The Swede's serve-and-volley game was too sharp for the groundstroke style of Courier, who went for reckless shots at inappropriate moments.

Edberg broke in the first game to get off to a quick lead, and stayed in front until dropping serve for 4-4. But Edberg scored a quick break back and served out the set 6-4.

Courier's frustration began to build in the second set when he trailed 3-0 and was given a code of conduct violation for an audible obscenity directed towards the umpire.

Edberg took a 4-0 lead before Courier won his



Edberg: overwhelmed Courier

only game of the set, at 4-1. Edberg fought off two break points to lead 5-1 and then broke Courier for the match.

"I made very few mistakes unless he forced me," Edberg said. "I'm quite satisfied with the way I played. I stayed with him and I really concentrated hard."

Courier admitted he was a little over-anxious. "I was going for a little bit too much," he said.

Jansher, Jahangir win

SALZBURG, Austria, March 11. (Reuters) World champion Jansher Khan overcame a strong challenge from Rodney Martin of Australia to reach the final of the Austrian Open Squash Championship yesterday.

The Pakistani struggled in the early stages against Martin, whom he beat in last week's Spanish Open final, before recovering to win 6-15-17-15-7-10-15-12 in 77 minutes.

Jansher committed a series of unforced errors in the opening game, which lasted only eight minutes, and looked in serious trouble when trailing 7-9 in the second.

But Martin produced a run of mistakes to surrender the game on a tie-break.

Jansher, who had considered

quitting the tournament during his quarter-final match on Friday because of a slippery court, was given renewed impetus by Martin's lapse and dominated the third game.

Martin was back to his best in the fourth and held the upper hand when leading 11-10 in the fifth. But Jansher replied with a spell of superb front court play and captured five of the last six points to move into today's final.

Jansher will meet world number one of Jahangir Khan who needed one hour 26 minutes to beat Chris Dittmar, the Australian world number three, 15-12-9-15-15-8 in the second semifinal.

It will be the 27th meeting between the two Pakistanis. Each has won 13 times.

Kazanov beats Kingdom

YOKOHAMA, Japan, March 11. (Reuters) Double Olympic champion Roger Kingdom was beaten by the slant margin in the 60 metres hurdles at a triangular indoor athletics meeting today.

European indoor champion Igor Kazanov of the Soviet Union was just 0.01 of a second faster than the American at the US-Soviet-Japan men's indoor meeting.

Two-time outdoor world champion Calvin Smith was beaten into third place in the 200 metres at team mate Daron Council won the event in 20.97 seconds. Smith clocked 21.35.

Soviet pole vaulter Grigori Yegorov improved his personal best to clear 5.90 metres in the event, one of the day's highlights at the one-day meeting.

Second day of England Test washed out

GEORGETOWN, March 11. (Reuters) The second cricket Test between West Indies and England looked in doubt today after torrential rain washed out play for a second successive day and made play on the third day, out of the question.

The Bourda Ground was severely flooded with the boundary areas under at least 15 cm of water.

No decision has been taken yet on whether to abandon the match. England lead the Test series 1-0.

The next stop on England's tour is Trinidad, where the weather is hot and sunny.

If the second Test here were called off by Monday, it is possible that two one-day internationals could be organised in Port of Spain.

The first two matches of the one-day series in Trinidad were both abandoned because of rain.



Flying leap

Golden State Warriors' Tim Hardaway (No. 5) takes a flying leap to score as Los Angeles Lakers' Larry Drew (No. 10) and Wade Davis look on in a National Basketball Association game in Inglewood, California, on Saturday. (Reuters wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES

Published by:
Dar Al-Sayassat

Editor in Chief:

Abdullah Al-Jarrah

Editorial Office:

Al-Rashid, Kuwait

P.O. Box 2276

13023 Safat, Kuwait

Telex:

22392 AR

Telephone:

9613566 (main line)

Advertising:

4916326/7

Annual Subscriptions:

Individuals: \$25

Organisations: \$50

Departments: \$100

Single copies: \$5

Subscriptions:

Tel: 4919140, 4915440